Hafa Adai!
Merry Christmas
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 255
THURSDAY DECEMBER 24, 2015
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune
75¢

Burglars hit 5 govt offices 7 times

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Burglars struck seven times at five CNMI government offices and a parked car on Capital Hill and Navy Hill, stealing computers and other items this week and last week.

No one has been arrested yet in those seven incidents.

NMI Crime Stoppers coordinator Jason Tarkong asked for the public's help yesterday in solving the cases and arresting the suspects.

According to Tarkong, burglarized were the Department of Labor office on Capital Hill, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Sanitation Office build-

See BURGLARS on Page 4

Mission accomplished—De Blasio

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Federal Emergency Management Agency was able to accomplish all its goals in helping the Commonwealth recover from the devastation wrought by Typhoon Soudelor last Aug. 2, according to FEMA coordinating officer Stephen De Blasio.

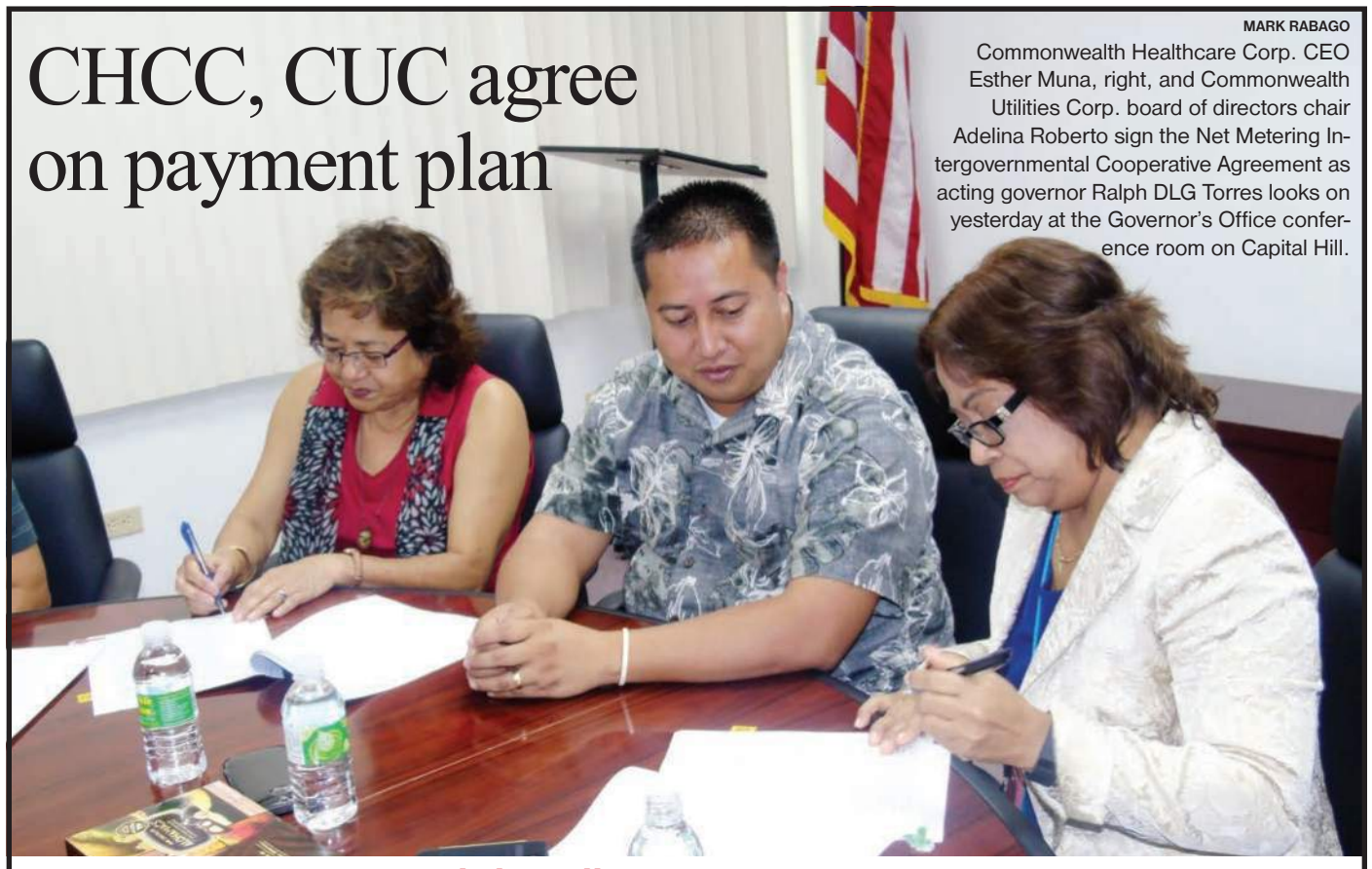
"Yes, we were able to accomplish our goals in the four months we've been here. We've put a lot of FEMA dollars there on the streets to the homeowners. The Small Business Administration has been here and

See MISSION on Page 4

NOTICE TO READERS

The *Saipan Tribune* will not be published on Friday, Dec. 25, 2016.

CHCC, CUC agree on payment plan



MARK RABAGO
Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muna, right, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors chair Adelina Roberto sign the Net Metering Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement as acting governor Ralph DLG Torres looks on yesterday at the Governor's Office conference room on Capital Hill.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

» Deal also calls for hospital to adopt PV system

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. have signed an agreement to finally address the $14 million the hospital owes the utilities company. It also calls for the Commonwealth Health Center—with CUC's assistance—to develop a photovoltaic system for its future power needs.

The Net Metering Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement establishes the relationship between CHCC and CUC on net metering and the development of photovoltaic renewable energy for the hospital.

Under the deal, CHCC will initially pay CUC $250,000 to

See CHCC on Page 4

PSS gets approval for new high school cafeteria. PAGE 3
HANMI occupancy up 5 percent in November. PAGE 5

INSIDE

LOCAL
Saipan Cares for Animals urges the public to adopt a pet for the holidays.
» PAGE 7

LOCAL
Fire of unknown cause engulfs an abandoned semi-concrete house in Koblerville.
» PAGE 10

LOCAL
Miss International China pageant winners film a destination video on Saipan.
» PAGE 17

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

IT&E
Life In Motion

Merry Christmas to All!!
Shop Early for Christmas!!
10% Off Clothing & Toys
Dec. 18th - 24th
LOLLIPOPS
BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Friday - Saturday: 9am - 9pm • Sunday: 10am - 6pm
Dec. 21-23: 9am - 10pm • Dec. 24: 9am - 11pm
TEL. 234-8040
Like us on Facebook

CLUB C
CASINO & ENTERTAINMENT
YOUR CASINO AND ENTERTAINMENT PARADISE IN SAIPAN
Wishing you all the joys and happiness of the Holiday Season. May you be blessed with peace, love and joy.
Merry Christmas!
Your choice of 6 refreshing bottles in bucket
$12 per bucket
EVERY FRIDAY
5PM - 10PM
Skyy Vodka Bloody Mary @ $5.00
Cook's Mimosa @ $4.00
EVERY SUNDAY
12PM - 6PM
Come, enjoy and dance the night away with
Mike Blue!
OPEN DAILY: 12:00 noon to 4:00 a.m. | 234-0088 | www.clubcsaipan.com
Must be 18 to enter and 21 to consume alcohol | Designated Smoking Game Area
Located at the Lobby of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe
WiFi
www.facebook/clubcsaipan

Local

CW holders lament slow pace of renewals

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CW-1 permit holders with pending renewals would like U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to help them understand why it is taking too long to adjudicate their renewal permits.

A number are also pleading for USCIS to speed up the process as the Dec. 31, 2015, deadline for most CW-1 permits loom. A handful of CW permit holders have admitted that they've continued to work despite their CW-1 permits having already expired.

A 48-year-old department manager of a hotel said USCIS should just do away with the policy of having CW-1 permit holders stop from working once the permits expire.

If that isn't possible, he said, USCIS should allow companies to exempt from this requirement certain key positions that are essential in continuing the operations of the company.

Agreeing to speak on condition of anonymity, he said a number of companies have been allowing CW workers to report for work despite having expired permits, arguing that they submitted the petitions on time and it's not the company's fault that the permits haven't been adjudicated yet.

A 45-year-old salesman from Garapan, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, wants to know why USCIS is taking a long time to process his CW-1 renewal when his company submitted his application six months before its expiration—as required by USCIS itself.

He said renewals should be prioritized first before new applicants, such as the rumored hundreds that new investors have submitted to USCIS.

A 36-year-old mother of five from As Lito who works two jobs hopes USCIS adjudicates her permit as soon as possible so she could transfer to a new and better job. She said she continues to work despite not having her CW-1 permit renewed yet because she already got a receipt from USCIS.

A 42-year-old wait staff supervisor of a hotel said he's been in limbo since early November when his company made him stop from reporting to work because his CW-1 permit had expired.

"I've been out of work for two months already," he said.

Luckily for him, his wife continues to work, which cannot be said for other CW-1 permit holders who are one-income families still waiting for their permits to be released.

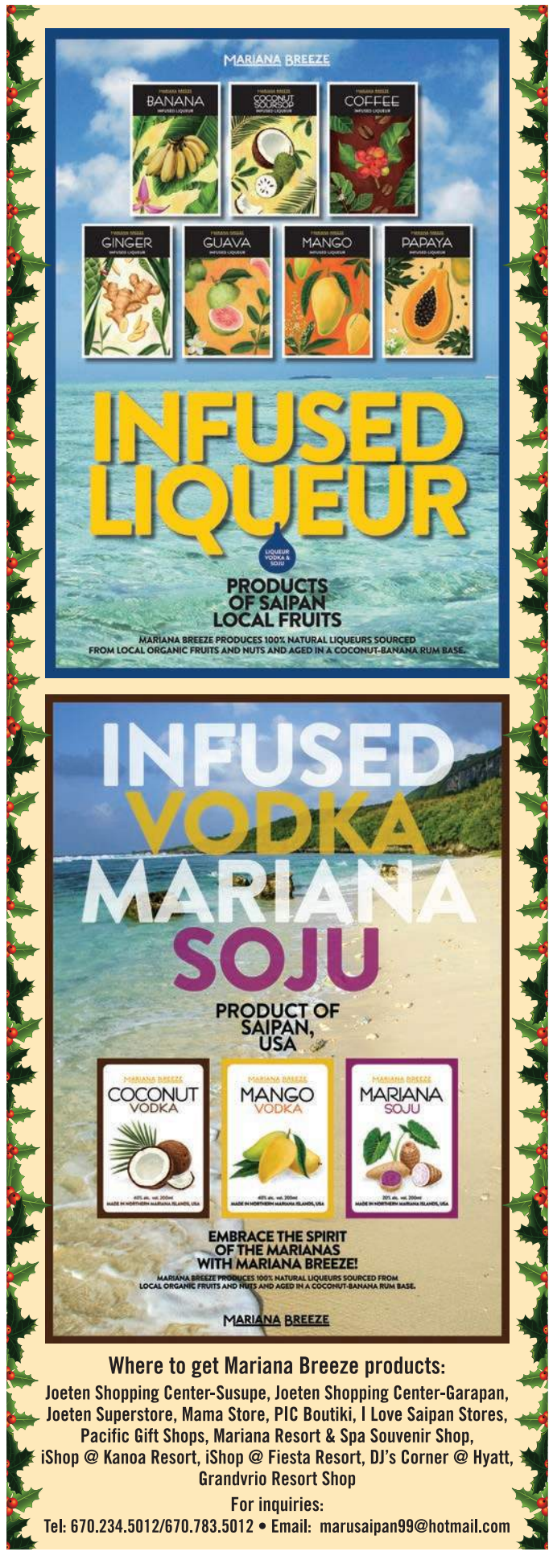
Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) told *Saipan Tribune* that his proposal for a 240-day grace period for CW-1 permit holders awaiting adjudication of their permits is still with the Department of Homeland Security, adding that his hands are pretty much tied when it comes to giving advice to CW-1 permit holders still awaiting adjudication.

"The proposed regulation hasn't been approved. And the congressional office does not provide advice, particularly when it involves adjudications of permits. We provide assistance to those who come to the congressional office seeking help. But the congressional office is careful, and limited in what it can do, in assisting petitions undergoing adjudication."

Sablan also reminded employers to process their CW-1 permit holders in a timely manner to avoid delays.

"We do suggest that employers submit petitions as early as 180 days before expiration of permits and that they respond to requests for evidence immediately upon receipt of a request from USCIS."

He said employers, not employees, are responsible for permit petitions. "We have seen on many occasion that employers submit petitions close to expiration dates (less than 90 days), or requests for evidence are not immediately addressed, and then employers tell employees that USCIS is to blame for the delay," said Sablan.


MARIANA BREEZE
BANANA
COCONUT SOURSOP
COFFEE
GINGER
GUAVA
MANGO
PAPAYA
INFUSED LIQUEUR
PRODUCTS OF SAIPAN LOCAL FRUITS
MARIANA BREEZE PRODUCES 100% NATURAL LIQUEURS SOURCED FROM LOCAL ORGANIC FRUITS AND NUTS AND AGED IN A COCONUT-BANANA RUM BASE.
INFUSED VODKA
MARIANA SOJU
PRODUCT OF SAIPAN, USA
COCONUT VODKA
MANGO VODKA
MARIANA SOJU
EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF THE MARIANAS WITH MARIANA BREEZE!
MARIANA BREEZE PRODUCES 100% NATURAL LIQUEURS SOURCED FROM LOCAL ORGANIC FRUITS AND NUTS AND AGED IN A COCONUT-BANANA RUM BASE.
MARIANA BREEZE
Where to get Mariana Breeze products:
Joeten Shopping Center-Susupe, Joeten Shopping Center-Garapan, Joeten Superstore, Mama Store, PIC Boutiki, I Love Saipan Stores, Pacific Gift Shops, Mariana Resort & Spa Souvenir Shop, iShop @ Kanoa Resort, iShop @ Fiesta Resort, DJ's Corner @ Hyatt, Grandvrio Resort Shop
For inquiries:
Tel: 670.234.5012/670.783.5012 • Email: marusaipan99@hotmail.com

PSS gets approval for new high school cafeteria

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) congratulated the Public School System on approval of its proposal to use federal carryover funding to build a new cafeteria at Marianas High School. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service approved the $1.4 million project request on Monday. PSS will use the money to address the high school's dilapidated kitchen facilities and to expand the capacity of the cafeteria, which was originally designed for a student body one-third of the current enrollment.

"I congratulate PSS on the successful application for use of these federal grant funds. And soon, our MHS students can look forward to enjoying their meals in a safer and more comfortable cafeteria," Sablan said.

PSS made the proposal in September to use carryover funds from its fiscal year 2015 Nutritional Assistance Grant for the construction. Sablan immediately contacted FNS Administrator Audrey Rowe, giving his support for the project.

The new cafeteria would "improve the health, wellbeing, and education of PSS students," he wrote to Rowe, "particularly in light of the damage visited upon PSS facilities by the recent Typhoon Soudelor."

Sablan said yesterday that he very much appreciated the continuing partnership and responsiveness of Rowe and of Administrator Jesus Mendoza at the FNS Region IX office in San Francisco.

"Both Ms. Rowe and Mr. Mendoza have gone out of their way to do what is best for the Northern Marianas," said Sablan. "Whether it has been raising food stamp benefit levels on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, or quickly releasing emergency food assistance after Soudelor, or now the approval of this new facility for students at MHS, the Food and Nutrition Service—and its leadership—is an agency that puts the interest of people first."

This will not be the first time that federal school meal funds have been used for construction. In 2005 San Vicente Elementary School got a new cafeteria, also with the use of the Nutritional Assistance Grant.

"The more we do to make sure that our children are well fed, healthy, and well educated the more we ensure a prosperous future for the Northern Mariana Islands," Sablan said. "Approval of this new cafeteria at Marianas High School is a wonderful Christmas gift for our students and our entire community." ***(Office of the Delegate)***

Waki's Carpet Cleaning
We clean Home/Office carpets, area rugs, furniture and bed mattresses.
Contact info: Call 287-9254 or Email at waki711@gmail.com for more info and a FREE quote

SEARCHING FOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND BIBLE STUDY GROUP
• Must use 1611 KJV Bible.
• Believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, and soon Second Coming.
Please mail contact information and Mission Statement/Core Beliefs to: Christian
PMB 426 PPP Box 10000
Saipan MP 96950

WORLD MASSAGE
Special Local Promotion
$18.00 Body Massage 60 minutes
$25.00 Body & Feet Massage 90 Minutes
Business Hours:
1:00PM – 12:00AM
Monday – Sunday
For more information, please Call 234-1504 and ask for Wang
Located in Beach Road, Susupe, Joeten Commercial Building or across World Resort

National Car Rental | Alamo
HOLIDAY Appreciation Sale
All rates inclusive of CDW insurance & taxes.
Offer valid: December 24-31, 2015
COMPACT CAR $44
SUV $59
MUSTANG $89
VAN $89
www.nationalcarpacific.com | Email: saipan@nationalcarpacific.com
RESERVATION & RENTAL LOCATION
Saipan International Airport (670) 288-4400 | Hafadai Beach Hotel (670) 234-6495 | Across PIC (670) 235-6627 | Garapan (670) 233-0111
Hotline: (671) 888-6055 • (670) 285-4405

i'm lovin' it
Holiday Treat
Buy One McCafe Frappe (Mocha or Caramel) of any size at a regular price and get another one (1) of the same kind & the same size for
Only $1.00
Blends well with mocha awesomeness
McCafé Frappé Mocha
Made with irresistibly rich chocolate flavor and a hint of coffee blended with ice, topped with whipped cream and a chocolate drizzle.
Cool. Creamy. Caramelly.
McCafé Frappé Caramel
Rich caramel—plus a hint of coffee—blended with ice, topped with whipped cream and a caramel flavored drizzle.
Baked Strawberry Cream Pie
2 FOR $1.75
(Available at Middle Rd. Store Only)
*Holiday Special is for a Limited Time Only.
McRib is Back!
Behold the barbecue wonder.
McRib
The tasty fan favorite slathered in tangy barbecue sauce, slivered onions and tart pickles all on a hoagie style bun.
For a limited time only.
Wishing You a Joyous Holiday Season.
From the Management and Staff of McDonald's
OUR STORES WILL BE CLOSED EARLY ON THURS., DEC. 24 AT 2PM (CHRISTMAS EVE) & WE WILL RE-OPEN FOR BUSINESS ON FRI., DEC. 25 (CHRISTMAS DAY) AT 10:30AM
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 - Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: mcdonalds@pticom.com

Neal files discrimination suit vs OAG

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former acting chief prosecutor Shelli Neal has filed a discrimination lawsuit in federal court against the CNMI Office of the Attorney General over her demotion and subsequent termination from the OAG last year.

Neal also alleged, among other things, that male prosecutors revealed confidential information to opposing lawyers regarding her cases in an effort to sabotage the cases and results.

Neal, who is African-American, also disclosed that a then-chief prosecutor called her a "bitch" on several occasions and allowed white male employees to engage in discussions of a sexual nature in front of her and other female employees.

Saipan Tribune requested comments from the OAG yesterday but there was no response as of press time.

The incidents alleged in Neal's complaint did not happen during Attorney General Edward Manibusan's term.

In her lawsuit filed Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Neal is suing the OAG for violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, subjecting her to hostile work environment, retaliation, violation of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and violation of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

The lawyer is demanding back pay with prejudgment interest, payment for compensation, punitive damages, and compensatory damages. She asked that she be reinstated to her previous position as chief prosecutor with the OAG.

The OAG recruited Neal for a position in the criminal division in March 2010. She was hired for a one-year contract, handling domestic violence cases. At the time, she had about 15 years of experience practicing law in Tennessee and Texas. Neal later learned that most new hires receive two-year contracts.

Neal alleges that when she refused to second chair a trial in January 2011, this resulted in the "white male attorneys" at the OAG ostracizing her, "acting in a hostile manner, such as rolling their eyes at her, letting doors slam or close in her face, and making racially and sexually derogative comments as 'bitches never win,' 'it's easier to leave the black girl out,' and 'you're being a real bitch.'"

Neal said the male attorneys would talk about her in a negative manner with members of the Office of the Public Defender and other members of the CNMI Bar, including revealing confidential information regarding her cases to sabotage her cases and results.

Neal said the hostile work environment continued from January 2011 through January 2012.

Neal alleged that the chief prosecutor at the time allowed "white male employees" to engage in conversations in front of her and other female employees using derogatory comments about women.

Neal said she repeatedly complained of the harassment to her supervisors, who were also engaging in the same behaviors.

In March 2011, Neal's contract was renewed with no salary increase but the "white male and female attorneys" in the office were given the standard $2,000 salary increase.

In May 2012, Neal filed her first charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging discrimination based on age, race, and sex.

In February 2014, she filed her second charge with the EEOC alleging retaliation.

In November 2014, Neal filed a third charge with the EEOC alleging retaliation. She also filed a Family and Medical Leave Act claim for being terminated while on FMLA leave.

MISSION

From Page 1

put a tremendous amount of money to homeowners and businesses of all sizes. The voluntary agencies continue to work with folks for any unmet needs that continue under the immediate case management program," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview the day before leaving the island last Saturday.

In monetary terms, De Blasio said FEMA was able to accomplish the following:

■ Pushed out to individual households over $20 million in rental assistance, housing repairs, and "other needs" assistance for personal property lost.

■ SBA was able to approve upwards of $28 million in low-interest loans to homeowners and businesses of all sizes.

■ FEMA provided $70 million to the local government to repair public buildings that were damaged.

Funding aside, De Blasio said one of the goals that will really have a lasting effect during the post-Soudelor period is the recovery and rebuilding effort FEMA conducted with the help of the other federal and local agencies.

"When we rebuild we want to make sure we're stronger and more resilient and more disaster-resistant so you won't incur the same damage when the next typhoon comes through or whatever the event may be. We're big on mitigation so as we build back we make sure that we're building it back in a way that wouldn't incur the same impact when the next storm comes through. I believe that we will continue the rebuilding process, fixing the buildings that were damaged and mitigating future damage that may come in the future."

De Blasio said some of the things FEMA was able to accomplish on the mitigation side were putting up concrete poles with the help of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Another mitigation project FEMA wants local government to look at, he said, is putting below ground some of the power lines, for instance the CUC lines between the power plant and the hospital.

"Get that underground! Concrete poles around the substations. Concrete poles all the way to the airport. We did the same in Guam after Typhoon Pongsona. All you see are concrete poles. So we need to do that here as well," he said.

For home construction, De Blasio said his mitigation people built models of houses that could survive the strongest typhoons.

"We showed them how you strap from the slab up the walls, over the roof, and back down to the slab on the other side so everything is strapped so the roof will not be blown off and the homes will not be blown over or blown away with the next storm…it shows how we should be rebuilding the homes. Use screws rather than nails to hold the roofing material down to the beams and then again strap down the roof's ends…" he said.

Of all the challenges FEMA faced in the post-Soudelor recovery, De Blasio said the most daunting was getting resources to the Commonwealth.

"It's always a huge challenge to just get resources in here. So we had to fly things in. It was too slow to get barges coming in and out because the barges have very limited capabilities. They basically have resources to deal with their daily routine of traffic and out of the island. So, it was difficult to get our stuff on these barges at our leisure, so to speak. So, we ended up having to airlift an awful lot of things to the airport. We flew in generators, other resources from Hawaii and Guam. We used the Department of Defense on a mission assignment to bring in the USS *Ashland*, which brought in the first batch of generators from Guam from our distribution center in Guam over here and that really got the ball rolling and were able to provide the federal support to local entities who were already doing things and making things happen," he said.

FEMA was able to overcome the challenges with the help of local, federal, and private agencies and voluntary groups.

"The collaboration and the cooperation was tremendous not only with the government but also with the voluntary and faith-based agencies, the private sector stepped up, a lot of workings with the banks to handle the money that FEMA was putting out here to make sure it got into the hands of the survivors. Again, there will always be challenges but the key is to be able to have a flexible and scalable system of coordination collaboration that you can adjust to meet those challenges. To have an impact on survivors, that's the key."

As in all catastrophes, FEMA learned a thing or two from Soudelor, De Blasio said.

"This was a terrible event. It was a major, major storm. It was devastation that hasn't been seen here since 20 or 25 years. You always learn lessons from these events and we've learned a few. We're going to improve upon our operations as we do after a disaster."

CHCC

From Page 1

settle part of the $14 million it currently owes the utilities company. The hospital will also be on the hook for minimum monthly payments of $150,000 until such time the solar power system is up and running.

As a condition of the newly inked deal, CHCC is mandated to raise its monthly payments to $300,000 in the event it is unable to complete its photovoltaic system project by the deadline set by the deal.

CHCC's annual power consumption averaged $5 million in 2012 and 2013 and the rationale for adopting renewable energy sources is to bring that number down to affordable levels.

The agreement allows CHCC to pay off a portion of its arrears while pursuing alternative energy so it could someday become independent from the CUC power grid and use CUC as backup.

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres presided over the historic signing of the agreement between CHCC, represented by its CEO Esther Muña, and CUC, represented by board of directors chair Adelina Roberto.

"Throughout the last year there's been communication going back and forth to settle the arrears and have a future plan for the hospital as a self-sustaining entity with their energy needs. [Now] there's an agreement and I hope everybody's happy. Everyone told me this is the best gift for Christmas for everybody… This is an assurance for all the patients that they won't be worrying [about brownouts at the hospital]," said Torres.

He said the agreement allows CHCC to become more financially stable so that it can better address the health concerns of the CNMI community, while lessening the financial impacts on CUC.

"This will ultimately reduce the cost of power and utility expenses for every single ratepayer in the Commonwealth in the long term."

He said the agreement could also serve as a model for other government agencies that still owe CUC, adding that the central government itself owes CUC some money.

"After we take care of this issue I will be here again and we will go back to square one. We're going to make things work as we've had here," he said.

Muña thanked CUC for working with CHCC to finally resolve its years-long inability to pay its power bills.

"Thank you to the board and management of CUC and also to their counsel, James Sirok. Thank you for coming to the table with us and mak[ing] this agreement [possible]. I know we've been a burden. I mention in meetings before that you guys are always there for us and we understand that you need help, too. I don't want to be a continued burden to you guys and I want to help out," she said.

Muña said the bottom line is CHCC has financial issues and it cannot really pay for its monthly utility expenses. Coming up with the NMICA agreement would at least get the ball rolling and both CHCC and CUC can move forward, she said.

"About 30 percent of our patients really cannot pay. Patients came to CHC to have their oxygen tanks run after Soudelor. Continuing to serve the indigent patients is important to us and we appreciate what CUC is doing for us," she added.

Roberto said she wants the NMICA agreement to work.

"Help us so we can help you so we can help everybody. This [agreement] ultimately will give consumers the lowest rate possible. We just pass through whatever good comes to us."

The CUC chair also urged CHCC to sustain its power conservation measures, which elicited an immediate reply from CHCC facilities administrator Warren Villagomez, who said they expect to have power consumption down another 30 percent in the coming months.

CUC Power Division manager Gary Camacho said it's important that both parties follow what's outlined in the NMICA agreement.

"It took some time because there were technical things that had to happen. We have consumers that we need to provide essential services to. It's good that we collaborated on an agreement where both agencies can move forward. This will have a significant impact," he said.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), who was also present during the signing of the agreement, gave credit to CUC for entering into an agreement with CHCC to finally stabilize the power needs of the Commonwealth's lone hospital.

Also present during the meeting were CHCC Project manager Dr. Norman Nakamura and CHCC legal counsel David Lochabay. Torres also acknowledged both for their work in the hammering of the deal.

BURGLARS

From Page 1

ing on Navy Hill, the Department of Commerce on Capital Hill, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, also on Capital Hill.

Tarkong said a government vehicle belonging to the Department of Finance was also burglarized at the parking lot of the former Emergency Management Office on Capital Hill.

The series of burglary began on Dec. 14 when Labor employees discovered at 8am that the door at building No. 1356 had been pried open and the office was in disarray. Employees at that time could not confirm what items were stolen.

That same day, it was discovered that a break-in happened at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Sanitation Office building No. N-5. The front door knob and dead bolt had been pried open.

Stolen were one water blaster, one Kawasaki bush cutter, one battery charger, tools and socket set, plumber's tool box, carpenter tool box, electric drill, drill bit set, carpenter chisel set, and a screwdriver set.

The following day, Dec. 15, employees of the Department of Commerce discovered that the window of building No. 1353, the Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Office, had been damaged and broken window glasses were scattered on the floor. No item was reported stolen.

Also on Dec. 15, Department of Labor employees learned that building No. 1343 was burglarized when they discovered that cabinets and desk drawers were left open and office equipment were missing. One of the windows had been forced open.

Stolen were two desktop computers, a 23-inch Lenovo Desktop computer, and a 23-inch Acer Desktop computer, all worth over $2,700.

It was also on Dec. 15 when Finance Department employees discovered that the hood of one of their government vehicles had been pried open. Stolen were spark plugs and battery terminals. The car, a white 2003 Hyundai Accent sedan, was parked outside the former Emergency Management Office.

Last Monday, Dec. 21, employees of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs reported to police that burglars stole their computer desktop HP Pavilion 23 "all in one" worth over $2,500.

Yesterday, police responded to the Department of Labor again after employees discovered that building No. 1356 had been burglarized and stolen were two desktop computers, one Asus "all in one" desktop computer, and one Acer "all in one" desktop computer, all worth over $3,000. Burglars managed to enter the building by forcibly opening the aluminum shutter and door, police said.

HANMI occupancy up 5 percent in November

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 88.04 percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for November 2015, a 5-percent increase compared to November 2014.

A total of 60,830 of 69,090 available room nights sold in November 2015, compared to 57,462 of 69,120 available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were $122.25 during the month, compared to $114.59 last November.

Cavanagh

"With the contributions of our member hotels, the CNMI tourism economy continues to recover," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "As an organization, HANMI continues to advocate for the government to give existing investors on public land the opportunity to negotiate new leases and stay in business to support this recovery. Our members have a proven track record of building—and now rebuilding—the tourism economy and our community. We are opposed to automatic RFPs of public lands without consideration for long-time investors and consideration of what is truly best and balanced development in our community."

So far this calendar year, hotel occupancy is at an average 87 percent, 5 percent higher than last year. Additionally, average room rates have increased by 11 percent compared to the same period last fiscal year.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. ***(HANMI)***

Man'amko Christmas wish: New bus

The congregates of the Office on Aging have just one wish this Christmas: better transportation to ferry them to and from their many activities on the island.

Last Tuesday, the Legislature hosted a Christmas luncheon for the *man'amko*, but what was scheduled as a 10:30am start dragged into 11:30am because the 70 or so senior citizens from the Office on Aging rode on a motley fleet of vehicles up to Capital Hill.

When Aging Center director Walter Manglona asked the *man'amko* what they wanted for Christmas, there was a chorus of "new bus and better transportation" from the *man'amko* assembled at the House of Representatives chamber.

Manglona, who earlier joked about the elderly wanting a swimming pool at the Aging Center, explained that the reason the *man'amko* had to drive in separate vehicles to the Legislature was because their old bus is currently in the shop for repairs.

He said the repairs are almost done, adding that the reason why it took so long to fix was because they had to order parts from off-island.

Manglona, however, told the *man'amko* not to lose hope and Santa Claus may yet grant their wish this Christmas.

"Hopefully we can get assistance and purchase new vehicles. More and more *man'amko* have been joining the center and that's very good. That means we need more transportation. With that, maybe Santa Claus will give us some. You never know," he said.

Manglona also thanked the *man'amko* for their patience and resilience even after Typhoon Soudelor rendered the Aging Center in China Town unavailable as it was used as an evacuation center.

"I understand we went through a lot this year because of Typhoon Soudelor. It was really a disaster. But we're still here, definitely. We're still strong. You guys are still happy and are all excited for 2016," he said.

He also acknowledged his hardworking staff at the Aging Center. "I really appreciate them so much. Without them we cannot accomplish our mission."

Saipan Senior Advisory Council president Maria Taitano Salinas, meanwhile, thanked Manglona for all his help and hard work as director of the Office on Aging.

"I want to thank our director for working hard for the *man'amko*. We owe him everything that we have at the Aging Center."

Manglona also thanked the House and the Senate for their donation to the *man'amko* last Tuesday, saying it would help defray some of their expenses for a planned trip to Tinian and Guam.

He also reaffirmed his and his staff's commitments to the CNMI's *man'amko*. "As we always say at the Aging Center, 'there are no high class or low class when you go to the Aging Center. Everyone is first class,'" he said. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Hana
HEALTH MASSAGE
SERVICES OFFERED:
▪ Body & Foot Massage - 90 mins - $25
▪ Table Shower & Body Scrub Spa
Christmas Promo: $100 Gift Certificate
5 ($20 Massage) Sessions
FREE 30 mins Table Massage (must complete 5 sessions first)
ACROSS KANOA RESORT BESIDE EQUITABLE INSURANCE
MSV BUILDING, CHALAN KANOA ACROSS MOONLIGHT
OPEN: 11:00AM - 1:00AM
MONDAY-SUNDAY
Tel: 789-7778, 234-7773/7778

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS
Give the gift of the best network on the CNMI
Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge $199
Samsung Galaxy Note 5 $249
BLU Energy X Plus (Prepaid) $119
BLU Vivo Selfie (Prepaid) $129
IT&E
Life In Motion
ite.net / 682-4ITE
*Terms and conditions apply.

END OF THE YEAR SALE

DECEMBER 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31, 2015

25% OFF 8 to 12 P.M.
Toys, Furniture, Whirlpool Appliances, Power & Hand Tools, Plumbing, Electrical, Selected Hardware, Paint Sundries (ex. Rollers/Brushes/Roller Covers excluding paint), Lawn & Garden, Pet Supplies (excluding Dog Food), Automotive, Cleaning Supplies & Housewares

15% OFF ALL-DAY
Garden Power Tools, Air Compressor, Generator, Pressure Washer, Bed Sets & Mattress/foundation

15% OFF 12 to 6 P.M.
Toys, Furniture, Whirlpool Appliances, Power & Hand Tools, Plumbing, Electrical, Selected Hardware, Paint Sundries, Lawn & Garden, Pet Supplies, Automotive, Cleaning Supplies & Housewares

Merry Christmas AND Happy New Year! 2016

ACE BEST BUYS
ALL-DAY
10% off Chain Saws

Some items not discountable / Sale items not included (Lumber, Building Materials, Water pump, Water Heater and etc.)

ACE® The Helpful Place!

- Except Sale Items
- Cash and Carry
- Some items not discountable
- No rain checks
- Delivery charge $10.00
- Credit card acceptable
- In stock merchandise only

We accept major credit cards

LOCATIONS - Saipan & Rota

'Sustain the spirit of the season'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan have the same Christmas message to the people of the CNMI: To maintain a positive attitude despite a challenging year.

Guerrero and Sablan gave their Christmas messages yesterday during the annual Christmas Breakfast Around The World gathering at the PSS Central Office grounds in Susupe.

With most of the world in a festive mood this time of year, Guerrero said it is also good to take time to remember the good things that happened.

"It has been a challenging year for the [Public School System] and the entire CNMI but we should also celebrate the season," he said. "It is also a time to reflect and count your blessings—blessings that came despite the challenges we faced."

Sablan highlighted the need to sustain the holiday spirit. "Despite all the hardships and challenges we've gone through, we must continue the spirit of caring, giving, hope, love, and sharing."

The Christmas Breakfast Around The World celebration started in 2009 and has become an annual tradition during the holiday season.

"This event started when our office was still on Capital Hill in 2009. It began with just a gathering with light refreshments but every year everyone gets motivated to showcase their skills inside the kitchen. It can even be expanded into a contest," said Sablan. "It is a world-themed breakfast party where we have fun, enjoy each other's company, and for the camaraderie."

The event was also attended by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

Teams were assigned continents to come up with the food their chosen country is known for. One table offered "crocodile" and "kangaroo" hotdog sandwiches to represent Australia, while the Asia team offered pajeon (Korean pancake), a Japanese yam cake, and other desserts washed down by the citrus fruit *dalandan*.

Africa had Moroccan kebabs, North America—particularly the United States—offered omelets and potatoes while South America had tamales, salsa, beans, and sweet fruits with a dash of spice. The CNMI table offered barbecued ribs, *titiyas*, chicken *kelaguen*, and rice.

Man gets 90-day prison term for 'ice' possession

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo handed down a 90-day prison term against a 30-year-old man for possession of less than a gram of methamphetamine or "ice."

Govendo allowed Nick Valeriano Reyes Jr. to start serving his sentence on Jan. 11, 2016.

Reyes was given credit for time served. He was ordered to pay a $500 fine.

Reyes pleaded guilty on Tuesday to illegal possession of a controlled substance as part of a plea deal.

Reyes was arrested in Dandan last July 7. He was released upon posting $10,000 cash last July 23.

A complaint of a stolen vehicle led to the recovery of the car and the arrest of Reyes and two other persons for alleged possession and smoking "ice."

Reyes and the car owner's daughter and her male friend were arrested last June 24 for allegedly smoking "ice." They were subsequently released, but Reyes was arrested again for illegal possession of controlled substance. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Weekend Food Fair!
Indulge in a festive evening of local and international cuisines.

Kanoa Resort Saipan

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY • 6:00pm - 8:30pm

iSLA CAFE
NOW OFFERING
20% LOCAL DISCOUNT
BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Sablan: PSS has 18 months to complete typhoon repairs

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

»PSS set to receive more than $3M million in public assistance

The Public School System needs to complete the repair of all of its damaged properties, including schoolrooms and other buildings, in 18 months, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

"The deadline was set by [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] based on the inspection done by their project specialist where a project worksheet was submitted. They identified the damaged structures," Sablan told reporters yesterday.

Sablan said that based on FEMA's estimates, PSS is set to receive more than $3M million in assistance.

"The over $3 million in public assistance projects will be used for repairs of damaged properties on Saipan. We will prioritize buildings that were destroyed by the typhoon to get them up and running before the end or by the end of the school year," she said.

Sablan said the scope of work plan is already out and they're just waiting for the request for proposal to be published for interested contractors who want to join the bidding. "Hopefully the RFP will go out early next year so repairs can be done and our operations return to normal."

The elementary schools of Garapan, Gregorio T. Camacho, and San Vicente and the Marianas and Saipan Southern high schools, and the Board of Education office in Susupe are some of the facilities that were severely damaged by Typhoon Soudelor.

"We're excited with the financial assistance. The money will go to the repair of the broken fences, windows, and doors, and the damaged buildings," said Sablan.

She noted that, based on their assessment, FEMA funds would replace only a portion of the MHS gymnasium roof that was blown off during the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor. "If we want to replace the gym's entire roofing, then PSS will shoulder the remaining cost."

She said they expect the FEMA money to be released once an RFP is awarded to the winning contractor and once done, they will coordinate with the involved government agencies or their representatives to begin repairs.

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero also welcomed the news of FEMA's public assistance. "We submitted all the requirements for us to qualify for the public assistance."

Guerrero, in another interview, said that aside from the needed repairs, they are going to review other projects that need funding.

"We talked about updates on pending projects. The things that need to be done in other obligations and how to come up with certain solutions," Guerrero said. "We will have a more detailed account on that issue on our next meeting in January."

Adopt a pet for the holidays

DAISY DEMAPAN

This spunky female boonie is gentle and walks well on a leash.

DAISY DEMAPAN

Energetic 1-year-old Max loves to socialize, is neutered, and ready to go home.

DAISY DEMAPAN

Lila is a spayed doggie who is super friendly and quiet

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Looking for a way to spread holiday cheer while helping the community humanely control the dog population on Saipan? Saipan Cares for Animals and the Saipan Mayor's Office animal shelter could use your help.

There are a total of 46 dogs, 19 puppies, three kittens and one cat at the animal shelter in Lower Base with only 40 kennels and not many crates to house them. Many of the adult dogs have been paired up due to a lack of space but with many of them are ready for a new home, according to Jason Hudy of Saipan Cares for Animals.

There are also three 3-month-old puppies with 13 more puppies still nursing as well as three 2-week-old orphaned puppies. According to Hudy, the 3-month-old pups are currently up for adoption and the others can be reserved for a late Christmas present.

Out of the 46 dogs at the animal shelter, 20 are already sterilized. The Humane Society is set to return to the islands with a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in January.

Hudy said they are currently accepting reservations for dogs that need to be spayed or neutered. However, dogs adopted from the shelter will get first priority.

"We are asking for a $25 donation to help us defray the cost of supplies. However, no animal will be turned away for lack of funds. We will ask you to drop off your dog in the morning of your scheduled day, to be picked up by the end of the day. If you miss your scheduled day, we cannot guarantee you will be rescheduled because of demand," he said.

For more information, email Jason@JasonHudy.com.

HYUNDAI
the dream big
sales event
5 PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN FULL-ACCESS DAY PASSES
With the purchase of any new HYUNDAI WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!
2016
ACCENT
• Fuel-efficient 4-cyl. Engine
• Automatic Transmission
• Keyless Entry
• USB, Bluetooth
• 6 Airbags
• 4-Wheel ABS
UP TO 37 MPG
STARTING AT $16,995 OR ONLY $121 PER PAYCHECK
HYUNDAI NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES
Saipan's Best Warranty*
10-Year/100,000-Mile
Limited Powertrain Warranty
2016
Tucson
• Fuel-efficient 4-cyl. Engine
• Automatic Transmission
• Keyless Entry
• Back-up Camera & Monitor
• USB, Bluetooth
• 6 Airbags
• 4-Wheel ABS
UP TO 31 MPG
STARTING AT $22,995 OR ONLY $164 PER PAYCHECK
Customers First
TRIPLE J
TRIPLE J MOTORS
Beach Road, Chalan LauLau
Open: Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm
Tel: 234-7133/234-3051
www.CARSSAIPAN.com
Like us on facebook
Triple J Motors, Saipan
*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2,500. While supplies last. Accent total price is $16,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $262.22 or $121 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $15,733.20. Tucson total price is $22,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $354.79 or $164 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $21,287.40.

Sunset view, fresh air at Michelle's beachside bar

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Aqua Resort Club premiered their beachside bar, Michelle's Beach Bar, with premium cocktails, spirits, a buffet and sunset views for a refreshing getaway last Saturday.

The bar's grand opening was a welcome escape from the island's catastrophic weather in the last few months.

Food and beverage manager Rom Manzon said that Michelle's caters to anyone looking for a cozy or romantic beachside style of dining.

"This is completely new. We started [construction] in July but when the typhoon came it broke one of the counters but we finally repaired it," he said.

Living up to its relaxing atmosphere overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the bar's beachfront wooden deck faces the sandy shores of the northern part of the island with cushioned seating and shaded areas for comfort.

Michelle's beach bar features a line of premium beverages such as Skyy Vodka, Jack Daniel's, Silver Patron, Miller Lite, Stella Artois and Kona beers. Patrons are also welcome to try their $4 signature cocktails not found anywhere else.

For those looking to quench their thirst and tame their hunger, the beach bar brings tempting chicken kelaguen and deep-fried chasers.

CONTACT INFO
Tel: 322-1234

"I'm inviting everybody, from couples to friends and anybody who wants to relax and see the beautiful scenery of the Achugao area. We are promoting this also as a party venue with custom menus," Manzon said.

For the upcoming New Year's Eve revelry, patrons are invited to watch a 30-minute firework show at the beachside bar.

The bar is open from 10am to 8:30pm Monday to Sunday, with happy hour from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. For more information or for reservations call 322-1234.

DAISY DEMAPAN
The grand opening of Michelle's Beach Bar is a welcome escape after the island's catastrophic weather in the last few months. The bar features premium cocktails, spirits, food and sunset views.

DAISY DEMAPAN
Michelle's Beach Bar offers stunning sunset views and fresh air.

APC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan

HOLIDAY SEASON CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 24th (Thursday) Raraina
Christmas Eve Candle Light Course Dinner
$60.00 and $80.00 pp

December 24th (Thursday)
Costa
Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet
$32.00 Adult • $16.00 Child
With Roast Prime Ribs, Baked Turkey, Leg of Lamb, Sashimi & Sushi, Crab Legs, Smoked Salmon, Assorted Christmas Desserts. Beers and Champagne.

December 25th (Friday)
Costa & Raraina
Christmas Day Brunch Buffet
$34.00 Adult • $17.00 Child
With Roast Prime Ribs, Roast Suckling Pig, Baked Tom Turkey with Stuffing, Lamb Chops, Crab legs, Oysters, Prawns, Sashimi and Sushi, Assorted Christmas Desserts, Champagne and Beers.

December 25th (Friday)
Costa & Raraina
Christmas Seafood Night Dinner Buffet
$26.00 Adult • 15.00 Child
With All you can eat assorted seafood items like..Crab Legs, Baked Mahi Mahi, Smoked Salmon, Tempura, Prawns, Sashimi, Sushi, Grilled Squid Lots of Sweets and Cakes/Ice Cream and Beers.

December 31st (Thursday)
Costa & Raraina
New Years Eve Gala Dinner Buffet
$34.00 Adult • $17.00 Child
With Roast Prime ribs, Baked Ham, Roast whole Lamb, Cornish Hen, Pork Kebab, Crab Legs, Prawns, Smoked Salmon, Sword Fish, Tuna Sashimi, Sushi, Jumbo Squid, Ice Cream Bombe, Sweets Desserts, Cakes, Champagne and Beers.

December 31st (Thursday)
Michelle's Pool & Beach Bar
New Years Countdown Party Celebration
No entrance fee and open for public.
From 9:30 to 12midnight
With live entertainment from Alana'ia Polynesian Music and Dancers
Grandeur Fireworks display on countdown.
Complimentary Traditional Japanese "Toshikoshi Soba"
Selected Beverages and Snacks are available for orders.

January 1st (Friday)
Costa & Raraina
New Year's Day Brunch
$26.00 Adult • 15.00 Child
With Roast Suckling Pig, Roast Prime Ribs, Beef Short Ribs, Smoked Salmon, Crab Legs, Tuna Sashimi and Sushi, Baby Octopus, Lots of Desserts, Cakes and Champagne and Beers.

For reservation, call 322-1234 (F&B ext. 731/732)

isla
Realty Management
a locally owned company

A Real Estate Company that Represent and Understand Your Land Value

Looking for properties to purchase or lease. Local Investors.

• Beach front properties • View properties
• Level open space properties • Downtown Garapan
• Hillside properties

ISLA REALTY MANAGEMENT
CONTACT & LOCATION:
MITA Travel Office
Beach Road, Garapan
Contact: (670) 234-7888/483-1726 or
Email: islarealtysaipan@gmail.com

Following Information/Documents Required
Property Map/As Built Map/ Total Land Area
If available for existing building showing exact location & building details
Owner Title Information
Owner Asking Price

Delicious Asian staples at SURA

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kim Young of Chunggiwa behind T Galleria recently took over the erstwhile Grill Haiku in Garapan and renamed it "SURA" to feature delicious Asian staples and a buffet lineup.

CONTACT INFO
Tel: 233-4745
Email: chunggiwasaipan@daum.net

Young said their extensive menu reflects her 15 years of experience in the restaurant business as well as her talented chefs.

The restaurant's menu offers *yakiniku* or Japanese-style grilled selections such as beef, pork belly, spare ribs, seafood and vegetables.

Those looking for delicious breakfast options like customized omelets should check out the restaurant to sample their cross-cultural selections such as Korean, Mexican and Italian options.

Young said that people should start eating more delicious meals in the morning since it's the best way to get the day started.

SURA is open everyday starting at 8am.

For those nostalgic for the former café's delectable dishes, Young said that SURA's chef is formerly of Coffee Care while Young specializes in flavorful Korean staples.

She is inviting patrons to check out their $13 Korean-style buffet lunch from 11:30am to 2pm Monday to Sunday and $15 dinner from 5pm to 10pm, with options changing regularly but normally featuring soup, kimchi, pork belly, noodles, sushi, tempura and Korean pizza.

Young said that guests can also choose to eat *a la carte*, particularly those who are craving for sashimi, poke, lobster, hotpot, soup or teppanyaki dishes.

For those looking for private party rooms to celebrate the season, there are three small room options that can hold up to 24 people, with a fourth second floor option for a full blown outdoor party for 50.

Stop by SURA near Johnny's Bar for more information or call 233-4745 or email chunggiwasaipan@daum.net.

SURA's restaurant's buffet offers yakiniku or Japanese-style grilled selections such as beef, pork belly, spare ribs, seafood and vegetables as well as a la carte for those craving other Asian delicacies.
DAISY DEMAPAN

Local students make OSU's honor roll

Two students from Saipan have made it to the Scholastic Honor Roll of the Oregon State University for the fall term.

Keanah G. Deleon Guerrero, a sophomore taking up University Exploratory Studies, and Amanda Maria W. Santos, a senior majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife Science, earned grades of 3.5 or better to land on the honor roll.

A total of 1,009 students earned straight-A (4.0). Another 3,982 earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the Honor Roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work. ***(OSU)***

GRAND VRIO RESORT SAIPAN

Our Tropicana Restaurant (2nd floor of Taga Tower) in Grandvrio Resort Saipan will be adjusted as the following new schedule.

*Promotion Period: **Nov. 18 - Dec. 18, 2015** • Raffles are available on buffet time (Lunch & Dinner) during promotion.
***Lunch: 11:30am - 2:00pm • Sunday Brunch: 11:00am - 2:00pm • Dinner: 5:30pm - 9:00pm**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		12/01/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/02/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/03/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/04/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/05/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
12/06/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/07/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner Buffet: Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/08/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/09/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/10/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/11/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/12/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
12/13/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/14/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/15/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/16/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/17/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/18/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/19/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
12/20/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/21/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/22/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/23/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/24/2015 Christmas Brunch: $25 Dinner Buffet: $30	12/25/2015 Christmas Brunch: $25 Dinner Buffet: $30	12/26/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
12/27/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/28/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/29/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/30/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/31/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	1/01/2016 New Year Brunch: $25 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	1/02/2016 New Year Brunch: $25 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)

** Come and enjoy fantastic buffet at our Tropicana Restaurant! Performance is available on Sunday Brunch; "Seafood & Sushi night" for every Friday and Saturday dinner buffet.*
** Starlight BBQ Dinner Buffet Location: Poolside Price: Reg. $30 (Local: $28) Business hrs: 6:00-9:00pmMenu: " All you eat & drink" - beers, red& white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.*
** Come and taste delicious curry & sandwich set ($7.00 only), cake, café latte, organic smoothies… with ocean view at our Airi Coffee Lounge.*

For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-234-6495 ext. 5825
TROPICANA

SAIPAN IS
TACOMA
TERRITORY
BE PART OF THE NEXT CHAPTER
IT'S HERE, SAIPAN!
ALL-NEW 2016 TACOMA
FEATURES
• INTEGRATED GOPRO MOUNT
• AVAILABLE CRAWL CONTROL
• UP TO 6.8K TOWING CAPACITY
• BACK UP CAMERA
• LOCKING TAILGATE
FREE* GoPro
with your 2016
TACOMA delivery.
HERO4
*Conditions apply. Offer good for a limited time. While supplies last. Only available for Tacoma 4x4 (TRD) Off Road packages.
SINCE 1914
Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950
Call 234-5911
Showroom Hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 5 pm
Saturday 8 am to 12pm
TOYOTA
Let's Go Places
HERE FOR SAIPAN. HERE FOR LIFE.
Browse our online showroom - Visit: www.AKsaipan.com

PC BARGAIN
789-8261

PC BARGAIN STORE

Unit 2 Tunkiku's Bldg. beside Hermans Bakery in Garapan
Tel. Nos.: 789-8261 • 233-3377

Store Opens: Mon-Fri 10am-7pm • Sun: 1pm-7pm
Flea Market @ Nauru Bldg. - Saturday: 7:30am -11:30am

DECEMBER PROMO

ZERO DOWN

Samsung Grand Prime - $39
Samsung Galaxy J7 - $45
(5.5 inches display, 13MP camera, 1.5GB RAM, Android OS, v5.1)
Samsung Galaxy S4 - $49
Samsung Galaxy S5 - $69
Samsung Galaxy S6 - $89
(5.1 inches display, 16MP camera, 3GB RAM, Android OS, v5.0.2)
Samsung Galaxy S6 active - $89
Samsung Note 2 - $59
(5.5inches, 8MP camera, 2GB RAM, Android OS, v4.1.1)
Samsung Note 3 - $79
Samsung Note 4 - $89
Iphone 5S
(4 inches display, 8MP camera, 1GB RAM, iOS 7 - $79
Iphone 6 - $95
Sony Playstation 3 - $45
Sony Playstation 4 - $69
(Supercharged PC Architecture • X66 CPU, Enhanced PC CPU, 8 GB Unified Memory, Local Storage HDD)
Microsoft Xbox One - $69
Ipad mini 4 - $69
(7.9 inches display, 8MP camera, 2GB RAM, iOS 9)
Ipad Air 2
(9.7 inches diplay, 8MP camera, 2GB RAM, iOS 8.1) - $69

Bose Bluetooth Speaker - $45
Desktop intel core i3 - $69
Laptop Intel core i3 - $79
(Dell/HP/Asus, 15.6 Display, 500GB Capacity, 4GB memory)
Magic Sing HD Karaoke 2015 - $69
Samsung Smart TV 40" - $89
Samsung Smart TV 48" - $99
Quiet Portable Generator - $99

The Best View In The World
49" LG ULTRA HD 4K TV
• ULTRA HD 4K • CINEMA 3D
• SMART TV WITH webOS • 2.0 CH SPEAKER SYSTEM

• $199 DOWN •

Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge - $89
Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge Plus - $99
(5.7 inches display, 16MP camera, 4GB RAM, Android OS, v5.1.1)
Samsung Note 5 - $99
Iphone 6 Plus - $89
(5.5 inches display, 8MP camera, 1GB RAM, iOS 8)
Iphone latest 6 S - $99
iphone latest 6 S Plus - $109

ALL PRICES PER PAYCHECK

Sign for 6 months-to-pay Plan!Hurry! First Come First Serve!

Fire engulfs abandoned house in Koblerville

Fire of unknown cause engulfed an abandoned semi-concrete one-story house near Saipan Southern High School along Tinaktak Drive in Koblerville on Monday afternoon.

No one was reported injured in the blaze, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde yesterday.

DFEMS received a call from an anonymous caller about a structure fire near Saipan Southern High School on Monday at 3:08pm.

Firefighters from the Susupe Fire Station and medics from Koblerville Fire Station immediately responded.

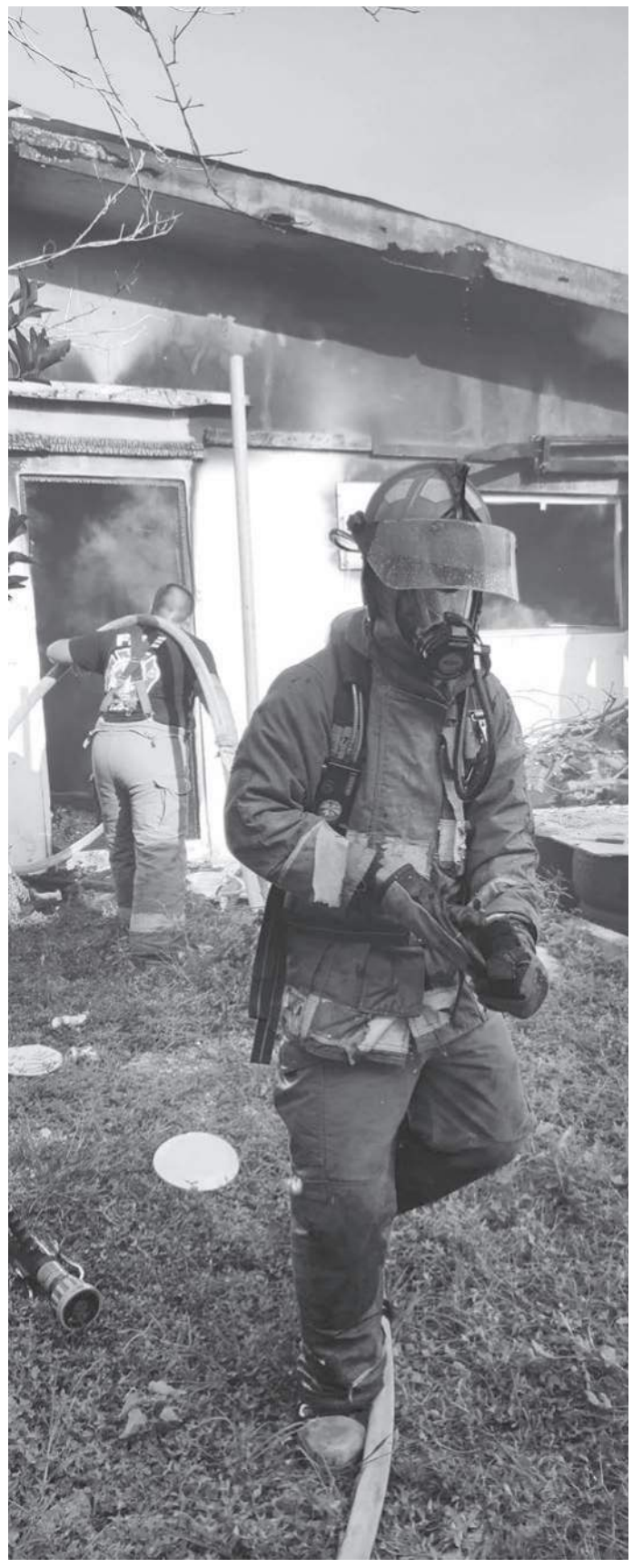
Firefighters placed the fire under control and fully extinguished at 3:40pm.

Gersonde said Arson Investigation Unit investigators determined that the fire started in the northeast portion of the house.

Gersonde said most of what fueled the fire were the wooden beams and truss holding up the tin roofing.

The case is under further investigation.

Last Dec. 4, fire broke out at a barbecue stand in San Vicente and investigators determined that the cause was electrical. The barbecue stand sustained minor damage. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



Firefighters from the Susupe Fire Station respond to a fire that engulfed an abandoned semi-concrete one-story house near Saipan Southern High School Monday afternoon.
DEREK GERSONDE

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

AMP Visitor Center closed for holidays

In observance of the upcoming holiday, the American Memorial Park Visitor Center will close on Christmas eve, Dec. 24, 2015, at 1pm and will remain closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2015. The American Memorial Park Visitor Center will resume normal hours of operation from 9am to 5pm on Saturday, Dec. 26, 2015. ***(NPS)***

NMC sets winter break

The Northern Marianas College will be closed from Friday, Dec. 25, 2015, through Friday, Jan. 1, 2016. The college will resume normal operations on Monday, Jan. 4, 2016.

Along with other public agencies, the college will also be closed from 12pm to 5pm on Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015, as employees have been granted administrative leave. For any campus emergency, contact NMC Security at 237-6800.

Information about NMC's spring 2016 semester can be found on the college website, www.marianas.edu. Ongoing NMC students can log in to their Proa Portal accounts to register for classes. ***(NMC)***

3 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Palms Resort beach, Tanapag Meeting Hall, and DPW Channel Bridge and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Marpi landfill, transfer station operation hours

The Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill facilities will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015, at 11:30am, and on Friday, Dec. 25, 2015, both facilities will close all day in observance of Christmas Day. Regular operations will resume on Saturday, Dec. 26, 2015. ***(PR)***

Nominations open for Employer Support Freedom Award

The deadline to submit nominations for the 2016 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is on Dec. 31, 2015. Presented by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense office, the Freedom Award is the nation's highest honor presented to civilian employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR encourages Guardsmen, Reservists, or family members acting on their behalf, to submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil. The Freedom Award ceremony is held in Washington, D.C., for up to 15 deserving employers each year in August. ***(ESGR)***

May Peace, Joy,
Hope and Happiness
be yours during this
Holiday Season
and throughout the
New Year!

From the management and staff of

Mariana Resort & Spa

Serving you for 37 years

MARIANA OCEAN

Mandi Asian Spa
Saipan Mariana Resort & Spa

MARIANA SEASIDE CIRCUIT

Wishing you joy and peace this holiday season and all through the new year.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

Never satisfied until you are

GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:

To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.

LED TUBES
Best Price in Saipan
Less & More
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!

NEW ARRIVALS
GI ROOFING TINS
8FT to 20FT
ALL SIZES

NEW ARRIVALS
KITCHEN & BATH ACCESSORIES
Storage Rack • Towel Rack • Unique & Graceful Design • Stainless & Space-Age Aluminum

New Arrivals
ALUMINUM WINDOWS
MADE IN US | All Sizes
VARIOUS STYLES:
French, Aluminum, Bronze

CERAMIC TILES
FASHIONABLE NEW DESIGNS!!
Big Promotion!
The Best Prices and Quality on Saipan

SPECTRUM PAINT
• Special Formula for Tropical Marine Climate
• Longer Service Life • Top Quality
FLAT & SEMI-GLOSS • INT & EXT LATEX

15% TO 75% OFF
ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!

CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Mon.to Sat.: 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

Roxas' support on West PHL Sea earns USP4GG backing

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Aside from a long list of accomplishments, his support for the Philippines' claim on the West Philippine Sea is the main reason why the Marianas chapter of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance is supporting the tandem of Mar Roxas and Leni Robredo in next year's Philippine national elections.

USPGG Marianas chapter chair Dr. Celia Lamkin said only Roxas among the three other presidential candidates expressed support for the Philippines' claim on the disputed Scarborough Shoal and Spratlys group of islands.

China is claiming the group of tiny islands that number in the hundreds is part of their territory. China's military presence in the region has intensified in the last five years, building airstrips, military bases, and artificial islands.

Lamkin

The West Philippine Sea is rich in marine life and is believed to have a huge deposit of oil and other gas that could amount to billions of dollars.

"Mar Roxas has expressed support to the West Philippine Sea when he visited the fisher folks at Masinloc in Zambales. He said that Scarborough Shoal or Bajo Masinloc is ours, which is part of the West Philippine Sea," said Lamkin in an email to *Saipan Tribune.*

Scarborough Shoal is just 123 miles (198 kilometers) west of Subic Bay, with the municipality of Palauig in Zambales province in the island of Luzon the nearest landmass.

China stands firm on their claim and said that it will not enter into talks with the Philippines unless it acknowledges the nine-dash line rule in the South China Sea that includes the West Philippine Sea where Scarborough and Spratlys are located.

Lamkin said that Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Vice President Jejomar Binay, and Sen. Grace Poe—the three others who are eyeing the presidential seat—have other views in settling the dispute with China.

Duterte and Binay want to enter into bilateral talks to China while Poe doesn't want the United States to interfere in the dispute.

"Duterte said we could not go to war against China because we are not equipped militarily while VP Binay said we don't have the financial resources. So we just talk with them," said Lamkin.

She added that Poe's plan of no U.S. intervention is impossible since, without the Philippines' key ally, China will continue its expansion in the disputed region.

"President Obama's message to China in the [Asia Pacific Economic Conference summit this year], is for China to stop its militarization and construction in the West Philippine Sea," said Lamkin.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
WE WISH YOU A VERY
Merry Christmas
MAY THIS INCREDIBLE TIME OF GIVING AND SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY BRING YOU JOY THAT LASTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
IT&E
Life In Motion

UFO's upcoming events in 2016

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization has already lined up several events for 2016 to provide entertainment and service to the community.

UFO president Bong Malasarte said the first event, if plans push through, is *Pusong Pinoy*, set to be held on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, Sunday.

They are on the lookout for major sponsors in helping them organize the Valentine's Day event that in past years featured performances by bands, dancers, and solo entertainers, as well as beauty pageants and cooking contests.

"We're still looking for major sponsors and will be asking some that will help us hold this event for the community," said Malasarte.

The *Palarong Pinoy* is also in the pipeline, with basketball one of the games that will be played.

The group is already planning for its activities and program for the June 12 Philippine Independence Day celebration, highlighted by the *Pistang Pinoy.*

They will also again join the Fourth of July float competition and at the same time hold the 2016 *Paskong Pinoy.*

Malasarte said they are also planning to have the Civic Center basketball and tennis courts in Susupe lighted so the public can use it again.

He again thanked all the sponsors and volunteers who supported this year's *Paskong Pinoy*, held last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza grounds in Susupe. The event was co-sponsored by IT&E and LBC.

"Thank you again to all who watched and joined us in the festivities. Without the volunteers and sponsors we won't have a successful event," added Malasarte.

Deal or No Deal contestant Mary Ann Jardin took home $650 after she stuck with her chosen briefcase, No. 8. It was mistakenly reported Tuesday that she decided to accept the banker's offer.

Jardin reached the final round, with two briefcases left—the one she chose and No. 26 that had $50.

Ruel Nava won the Christmas lantern-making contest for the third straight time while the Umang Glee Club topped the choral competition and Matthew Rolly Alla was the champion in the solo singing contest.

Attorneys general form group to look into charities

PIERRE, S.D. (AP)—The National Association of Attorneys General has formed a committee that will look into charities in an effort to keep consumers and businesses from becoming victims of a scam or theft.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley is the association's president. He says the committee "will address the many challenges facing citizens and businesses every day when solicited for charitable giving."

Attorneys General George Jepsen and Doug Peterson, from Connecticut and Nebraska respectively, will co-chair the committee. Other committee members include Attorneys General Edward Manibusan, of the Northern Mariana Islands; Sean Reyes, of Utah; Derek Schmidt, of Kansas; and Bill Sorrell, of Vermont.

The association is made up of attorneys general from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 16th birthday, Arron! May you have the biggest, bestest, happiest birthday of your life! With love from Mom, Dad, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to our precious angel, Bryanna Mae C. Camacho! The Lord is watching over you, along with his guardian angel, blessing you with lots of love and gifted life, for your future ahead of you! With love, from Daddy. Mommy. and your sister Britney.

USDA seeks applications to support businesses, create jobs in rural areas

HILO, Hawaii—USDA Rural Development is seeking applications for the Rural Business Development Grant Program to compete for fiscal year 2016 funding. Applications for Hawaii and the Western Pacific are due by close of business April 15, 2016.

RBDG grants are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations, and federally recognized tribal groups to finance and facilitate various business opportunity or business enterprise projects that serve rural areas.

RBDG is a competitive grant designed to support targeted technical assistance (providing assistance for marketing studies, feasibility studies, business plans, training, etc.) by purchasing machinery and equipment that is leased to a small and emerging business, creating a revolving loan fund (providing partial funding as a loan to a small and emerging business for the purchase of equipment, working capital, or real estate), and support rural distance learning programs that provide educational or job-training.

Last year, the Hawaii / Western Pacific region was allocated $177,000 for the RBDG program (Hawaii, $113,000; Western Pacific, $64,000). As a result, five projects were selected to fund technical assistance and training programs and assist with obtaining equipment for small and emerging businesses.

The 2014 Farm Bill provides up to 10 percent set aside RBDG funds for projects that support strategic economic development or community development plans.

For more information on the RBDG program, and to request application materials, contact business programs specialist Anthony C. Barcinas at (671) 300-8567 or anthony.barcinas@pb.usda.gov.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way-strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities. ***(USDA)***

LEGEND REALTY

Exclusive Real Estate Agent for Best Sunshine International

and Representing Multiple Investors throughout Asia

SEARCHING FOR:

Hillside property or
View property or
Beach front property or
Beach Road property or
Rural property

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 202
670-484-5821
legendrealtycnmi@gmail.com

INFORMATION REQUIRED:

Map location
Total Area
Building area (if with existing building)
Title information
Asking price

Bring home the holidays!

As we celebrate the season, First Hawaiian Bank remains grateful to have been a part of your family's celebration. We look forward to more opportunities to provide the financial stability you and your family deserve.

May the holiday season continue to fill your home with warmth and love. From our family to yours, happy holidays!

First Hawaiian Bank
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan LauLau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

Member FDIC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 255

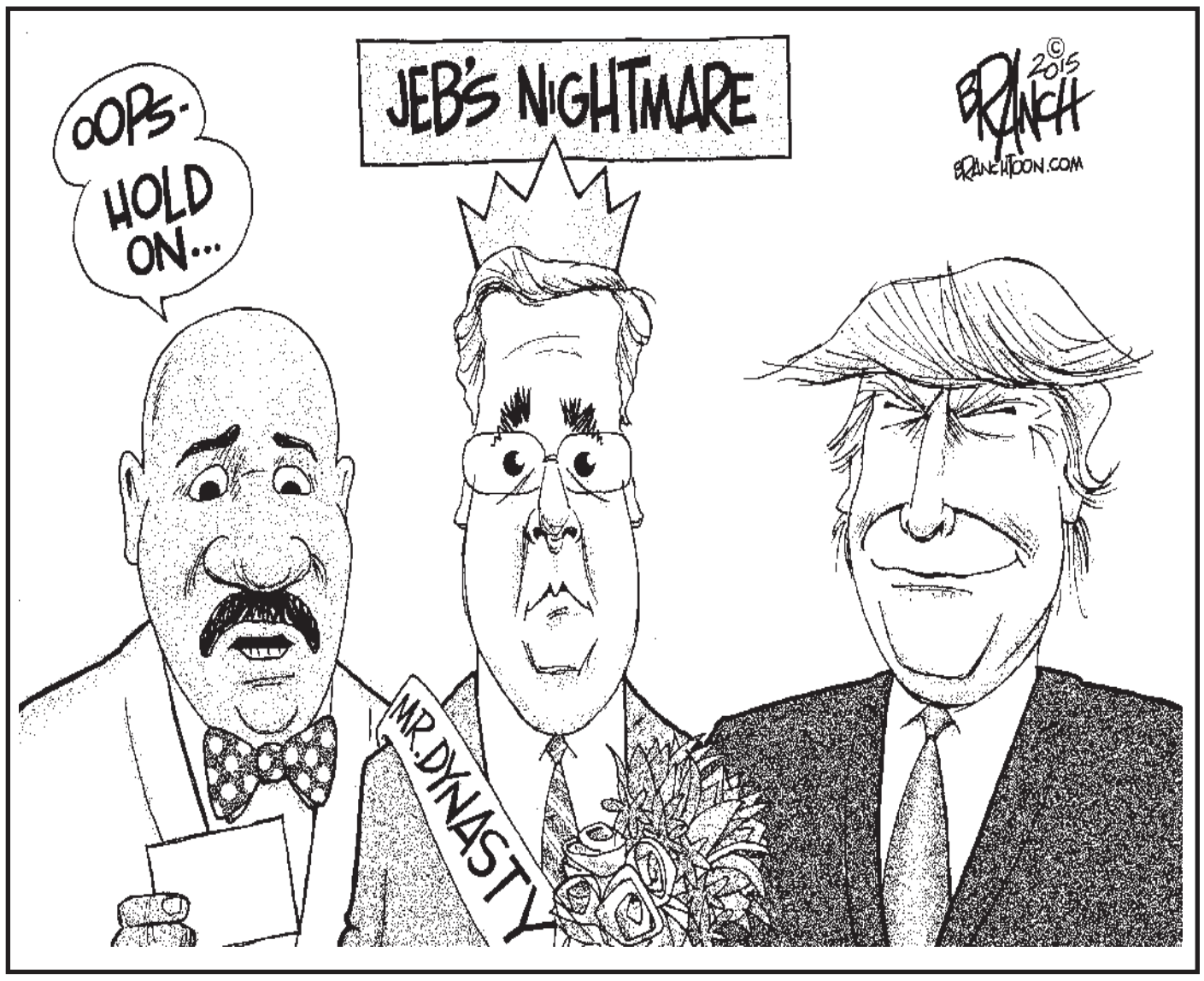
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



Making Christmas joy outshine our troubled world

By PAUL F. MORRISSEY
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

On Christmas Eve, my brothers and sisters and I would sing, *"Tomorrow will be Christmas, and we will carols sing; So early in the morning, the sweet church bells will ring."* No one ever sings that carol now, but it is still in my memory from more than 60 years ago.

It was the 1950s, and the earliest Mass then was at 5 a.m. I was a choirboy, and as I hustled across the street in the frosty morning air with the red cassock, starched white surplice, thick celluloid collar and the crimson silk ribbon bow tie, I stole a glance upward at the stars as the church bells rang.

Imagining Jesus born in a stable thousands of years before, I hoped in a young kid's way that I might even spot some angels. I also wondered with anticipation what I might find under the tree when I got home.

We were not allowed to look at our presents until after Mass. Our parents would make us all go to bed, then put up a tree from scratch (no artificial ones then), assemble model trains on a platform, and small piles of presents for my many siblings—practical stuff like socks and underwear along with a toy, and occasionally for a lucky one, a repainted second-hand bike from a neighbor.

It was all magical and wonderful, even if the tree fell over on a rambunctious younger brother later in the day.

I'm a priest now and we still celebrate Christmas in a big way, even though our parents are gone home to God.

On Christmas Eve, we gather at my sister's house for carols around the neighborhood first, then a Mass in the living room, followed by gifts (not the big emphasis now) and lots of delicious potluck food from the siblings and their children.

It is a bit challenging trying to pull off Mass reverently with 30 or more people around a coffee table altar in the living room, surrounded by young children vying to be my altar girls, with their parents—my nieces and nephews for the most part—looking on with bemusement. These are the practicing Catholics.

Others, of varying or no involvement with the Church, sit in the room farther back, many of them young adults. In the room farthest back, are those who may belong to other churches—a Buddhist or two and possibly some agnostics. Occasional laughter spills from this farthest room into the living room as we sing *O Holy Night.*

As I prepare for this year's gathering, I wonder how I can offer a few words after the Christmas Gospel that will touch my family, especially the young adults. It is such a challenging time when so much is happening in the world that breeds fear.

Were Mary and Joseph afraid, I wonder? If not when Mary had to give birth in a stable, then surely when they soon had to escape Herod and seek a possible home in Egypt.

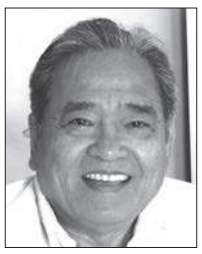
What are people's fears today? The kids squatting in front of me, their eyes aglow in the candlelight—are they afraid? Are their young parents around the altar more afraid than the young adults in the back room because they have kids? What can I say to them that is real?

Something about joy wants to be my message. A joy that overcomes fear. The joy that the angels announced to the shepherds. The joy that Isaiah's voice still rings through the ages in Pope Francis' "The Joy of the Gospel." The joy that a simple

See MAKING on Next Page

So much to be thankful for

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

"T*was the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. ..."* goes the most familiar Christmas narration this side of the secular divide. St. Nicholas turned Santa Claus, now simply called "Santa," a beloved figure in the U.S. imagination. NORAD regularly issues sightings of the bearded grandpa with the flying reindeers.

I am a renegade Christian by organized religion's standards. I did not choose to rebel in order to defy authority. I just no longer participate in the symbol system of the church as they probably find mine less colorful than the pageantry of the Yuletide season.

Christmas of old was chosen for the days when the sun was at its southernmost location (Southern Cross) and the Mediterranean celebrated the birth of the Egyptian sun god Osiris, Greek Apollo, Roman Bacchus, Chaldean Adonis, Persian Mithra; Virgo of the Zodiac (the sun is born of a virgin) rose in the horizon. The pagan festival of the winter solstice became the nativity of Jesus. Spring equinox that rebirthed the sun played host to Easter.

My social nurture until the '60s was highlighted by the babe in the manger in swaddling clothes, watched by shepherds at night, visited by three magi from the East, bringing gifts of gold (royalty), frankincense (life's aroma), and myrrh (death), a journey of life from beginning to end. None of these gifts were common in the rainforest of Sanchez Mira, the delta of Aparri, or the market town by the river in Laoag, but each December we got up the stage to play designated roles. I started as a shepherd boy graduating into a bearded St. Joseph with a headdress on a forehead band and a cane.

Christmas Eve, like every celebration the night before an eventful moment, is a time of great anticipation, of promise and hope observed in solemnity. Christmas eve came as a time of family gathering and the singing of Christmas songs. Never mind that most of the songs were of European imagery, of lights and greeneries, things that we take for granted as common in the tropics, but are seasonal in Nordic/Scandinavia countries. Still, the ambience of hope is unmistakable.

When I hear Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli belt out his version of *"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas,"* I hear someone imagining alpine Italy or the mountain range in the middle of the Mediterranean boot-shaped country that gave us black jackets and *soave* (suave in French and *swah-ve* to Pinas); south of Venice is hardly "white Christmas" country. It actually does not matter. Andrea was blinded in a soccer game at the young age of 12 so he sings from the heart, especially with "I've got a lot to be thankful for." The singing of white Christmas on Saipan gets many teary eyed, even those who have not seen snow.

Sleigh-bell rides on open one-horse sleds while the white stuff comes down is our image of Christmas and this has nothing to do with the historical Jesus who might have been born on a snowless Bethlehem. It has to do with European symbols of life in the middle of dark and cold winters.

And what are the signs of hope indigenous to the islands that are not related to the forced gaiety an acquaintance attributes to be compliments of BSI and ACG? The casinos flexing muscles to turn the islands into the Las Vegas of the Far East is not questioned. A lawyer friend says it provides employment for his young. The innocent amongst us shall be excused. We sold our bodies a long time ago to be a "strategic military location for Uncle Sam" so let's not pretend we had not walked down this street before!

It is the language and skin color on our streets in Garapan that has changed. OK, the diversity so far is mostly in the tourist area but with Tinian Dynasty renewing its license (though did not reopen on the 15th as publicized), and Alter City talking big on the future of Tinian, the eventuality of a Las Vegas of the islands is most likely.

Mariana Resort and the Nihonggo owners neglected the units in Saipan's north after the Nippon made itself scarce, but when China started coming, the resort applied their first coat of paint. Kan Pacific's efforts to publicize her loyalty and fealty to the islands were laughable. They too got bought. BSI jumped into bed on the remaining lease; Zhongguo *renminbi,* Nippon *yen*, Hanguk *won* and Russia *rubles* get the eye. We no longer question DPL's independence.

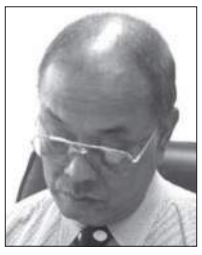
Indigenes learned of Torrens title years ago. Though there are constitutional provisions to protect the ownership of land, communal rights are in dispute as some land got titled before the commons were parceled into parts. Ancestral rights to property get the ear of the Judiciary but Carolinians' claims need documents more than the demonstrated navigational skills from Satawal to Pagan to Japan. Or the elders say so.

Still, there is so much to be thankful for. Who are singing carols? Lawyers' offices take the lead. But on the night before Christmas, we all are. Here, light a sparkler.

In search of realistic answers

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



Spent time peeping into emerging issues that need critical and thoughtful review. I'm interested to know what is and isn't, including likely consequences. There are several on the table that merit healthy discussion and resolution.

Poverty: We've heard completely misguided speeches about poverty that fails to address its root cause. It moved into useless panaceas as temporary scaffold like the confused discussion on economic self-sufficiency.

A bad or depressed economy won't help poverty stricken folks at all. It only exacerbates or makes their miserable lives worse! Misguided rhetoric won't solve it. Not by a long shot.

The other definite familial scourge is stagnant wages and salaries, the crowned by-product of a bad economy doubled down by a clueless bunch on the hill. Eh, this is going for 14 years now under toxic Republican charge, true?

The use of casino against the indigenous people is as perplexing as it is appalling. A recent news item in the *Wall Street Journal* had this to say:

"Despite the recent success that gaming has brought to some Indian tribes, most of Indian country remains shockingly poor. This condition reflects the historic policies of the U.S. government that were designed to destroy tribal economies and induce Indian political subjugation."

On that side of the Pacific Divide it's the destruction of traditional economy and dominance. Though the U.S. isn't pushing such policy here the goal is the same—bankrupting everybody! It's subjugation or political control and dominance after which we all turn slaves of rich casino owners begging how high do we jump, whimsically. Do we drive our people into total poverty?

Leadership: There's none up this alley, though there's tons of "followership" everywhere you go! At day's end, the absence of leadership only sinks the standard of living of villagers. Our men of wisdom on imperial Capital Hill have decided to ride the high tide of apathy and negligence. A world famous visionary once said that the "the acid test of success is in performance, not promises."

Military plans: Our neighbor to the south is benefitting tremendously from what a Polynesian sister calls "militourism." It's the complementary combination of tourism and the military between Hawaii, Guam and the NMI.

Activists have had sour relations with the military for the destruction of the last indigenous government just to accommodate the military and rich sugar industry owners from the U.S. mainland. There's the history of violent land taking at the expense of Polynesians.

The NMI has the Covenant agreement to rely on in terms of any military buildup here. Pagan, though, isn't part of the military land inherent under the agreement. It means negotiations that must include an approved plan and budget from the U.S. Congress.

Meanwhile, the legal battle in Japan has begun over the buildup at Henoko in northern Okinawa. A former governor severed any further construction of the new base. Prime Minister Abe says "security" is the purview of the national government of Japan.

Stagnancy: Fourteen years of zero increase in salaries and wages is way too long a leadership neglect to endure while everything else skyrockets. Solutions driven? I have heard sputtering of an old jalopy driven out of the mud of poverty but solution isn't part of the equation.

Is abject poverty the legacy of this administration? How long could we sit as huge sponge absorbing all the excesses of the "do-nothing" troops from imperial Capital Hill? Sorry, didn't mean to poke your eye!

Diversification: The NMI must work on diversifying its economy beyond the fickle tourism industry. It must work overtime to factor in farming and fishing. This would require a plan of economic integration in diversification. Farming must be pushed several notches up including fishing. We all should draw lessons on such vicious experience like the effect of the Asian crisis here on tourism in recent years. Thus it makes imperative that we look beyond our deformed noses.

Land leases: A moratorium on land leases for development should be placed on hold for the next 10 years. It grants the NMI time to scrounge for money to fulfill its obligation in the emplacement of basic infrastructure. It gives people at the helm time to mull over a highly relevant query we've ignored for nearly four decades: Development for whom? What's our role in future planned investments? Would we again be reduced to just cogs?

No more? In 1993 we told Congress "no more" grant funds. This year we're pacing the Capitol and Pennsylvania Avenue to see if we could get "more" funds. Lucky there's MPLT whose funds we would raid to pay for costs regular funding can't cover.

It was a proud moment in our developmental history. The economy was humming with a thriving tourism and apparel industries that encouraged growth in other sectors. This was dashed as to force our looking into pension obligation bonds. It's an indirect admission that the NMI is hard up for cash.

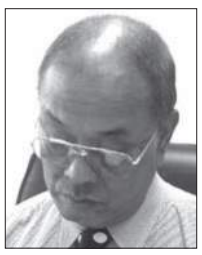
Indigenous: When people use the term "indigenous" it raises my two ears quizzing who else dares use it to spout unbridled radical rhetoric that feeds the ego but denies our people real assistance. It's a sad tale that means we must begin morphing into reality check. It requires major shift in lingo too.

The answers to the self-inflicted miseries are right before our naked eyes. Spouting you must shove aside and begin using the more humble sense of listening. You need to hear in clear fashion the yearning of your people searching for real answers in familial economics. This needs to be done for we've rendered a whole of "nothing" all these years. No more platitudes, please! *Felis noche buena!*

Rekueddon Trañkilida

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



Gi chagu` mapagahes hu huñgog ekun mañglu`. Ha falalague trosun uchan gi sanlagu gi lemlem tautau. Gi mismu tiempu huñgiñge` paupau na flores lañgilan gi aire.

I pajaru siha gi lañget sige halom gi minachom atdau dispues de todo dia gi tasi. I tautau-ta sige preparasion sena gi gima` niha.

Hu sugon i kareta-hu para kanton tasin iya Garapan `nai hu sosoda` katma na ginefsaga man-hassu. I dibina: Kau guaha kampu para ta asegura gumu`ot tatte i toru gi sagaña pat para ta sede na u dis-onsegue`?

Tinaka` tiempu antes de bai siña pumula` i asuntu gi hinasoghu. Esta kumuentos mamaisayu` gi tatten mañgun karetahu. Lau hu konsige umebalua i makat na trosu gi sanmena.

I umestototba-yu` i siempre un` dia u faliñgu este na pas yan trañkilida gi dikiki` na komunidan isla piot `nai tumachu palun i industrian casino. Fuetsau ha yamag ekonomian tanu` dispues ha lachai chumopchup guinaha-ta estake hana` fangagalileg hit gi halom miserapble na fache` dibi yan pinepble. Kau este na rekueddu para ta-poluye famaguon-ta—pinepble—pot diskuidu-ta?

Inatan Futtuna-ta

Guaha `nai hu arastreha i maliñgu na fan atan-ta chagu`, anchu yan taduñg. Ti hu komprende manu `nai lotgun pat taigue ha` gi man-sabiun I Deni`.

Mauleg na tiempu hu gasta umadiñgan yan man-menhalom siha na man-amko`ta. Intaktu nina` siñan niha gi su`anu, tomtum yan kabilosu na eskalera gi dineskuten asunto-ta siha. Sumen namagof mahuñgog haf` hinasson niha gi hilu` hinimidde yan pinasensia.

Estague` mina` guaha `nai mattu mahalañg-hu ni finu` ayu siha na man-amko`. Dañkulu na ekspirensia kumatsu menhalom na palabran niha. I ideu siha man-mau`udai gi hilu kabales na hinisga. Felis yan su`anu na esplikasion ni gumu`ot siempre attension-ta.

Deste alacha hu tutuhon humusga kau gaige este na bittu gi man-sabiun I Deni`. Apenas! Esta hu u`upus i lañget kumesoda` kau magahet sinida`hu. Esta ileleghu na ai lache-yu` mohon pot impetoghu.

Finagcha`e este na chinatsaga pinalo`pu diskuidu siha ni mas muna` fan dhatsaga i tautau-ta siha gi señgsoñg. Guaha mohon esperansa para i publiku gi papa` este na kondision?

Noche Buena

Todu klasen sunidu guaha pot ha`anen gupot. Unu hu huñgog ginen i chagu` ni fumaisen kau matuñgu` ni mamopble giya Africa na guaha Noche Buena? Ni hanom taya` solu i sage` ma`asen lagu` niha pot sinustu…`nai taya dodoku` gi tanu`, ni uchan pat milag sadog…`nai solu kampaña mahuhuñgog pot finatai niha.

Sumen na` triste na kanta pot didog na pinepble guihe na tanu` `nai miyon pot miyon man-mamatai ñalañg `sino man-mapunu`. Ti hu komprende ayu na chinatsaga. Lau i kanta matuge` pot ginagau limosñan ayudu para i man-namase` guihe na nasion siha.

Signifikasion: Hu atrebi-yu` fumaisen `nos kuantos tautau-ta haf` signifikasion ha`anen Noche Buena. Todu klasen ineppe guaha deste pot si Santa Claus, misan gayu, regalu, gupot, minagof yan maneska, yan kompliaños i Niño Jesus.

Megaiña sumañgan pot i Niño in` koneksion yan tradision relihion i tanu`. Estaya na`magof ineppen niha sa` man-mauleg na mañgilisyanu. Puede sumaga este na kinemprende giya siha ya machalapon gi famaguon niha.

Mientras metgot na kinimite guaha giya hita pot este na tradision tanu` i Noche Buena mas libianu ta simientu respetu yan inaguaiya gi entalu` todu. Nafan geftau hamyu lokue` gi man-namase` yan mamopble. Finaisen i Saina este nu hita.

Regalu: Hagas hana` sahñge i nina`ihu salape para limosnaña `an mattu i Niño. Lau sige ha dibina haf` na ayudu siña hana`e` i amiguña patgon namase`.

Hu esplikaye i patgon na i ayudu ni para u na`e` amiguña parehu yan kontribusion gi Niño sa` guiya managu` para ta hahassu i man-namase` yan mamopble siha na tautau-ta. Kontentu.

Nesessidat: Mamaisen-yu` besis mamahan regalun Noche Buena. Ayu masañganeg-hu i nesessidat i kilisyanu. I dibina: Haf` nesessidatña? Haf` ya guma` mas presesuña? Makat na kontrariu. Poresu na hagas ti yahu asuntun regalu. Makat dibinaña gi bandan nesessidat piot gastu.

Otru Asuntu: Hu li`e` amiguhu kebranta pot todu dia man-ayuda gi masimientun un` atuf guma`. Pinilog-hu na para u fan uñgag lateria. Maudai gi kareta ya mapos para una` fañochu i pinegsai siha gi lanchu. `Nai mattu tatte ha huñgog ma-alipika i kampanan gima` Yuus. Humanau humosme misa. Magahet na mauleg yan satton na patriatkan familia.

■■■

Duru i otru amiguhu man-espiha plomu para katgaderu para u gotde gi fagot. Sin este ti u fañogñog i haguet gi halom tasi. Dispues `nai mattu gi kanton unai man-aligau umañg para katnada. Sigiente oga`an hana`e-yu` patteghu sa` buyda kinine`ña. Un` biahe hu dalalag umetupag. Gi kombetsasion mame hu konfitma na fahagot na tautau.

■■■

Hu li`e malista gi gasetan gima Yuus misan "embidia". Mamaise-yu` hafa embidia. Guiya este i minaipen tautau ni katgadu matdision. Ti hu komprende. Sige dispues hu pula` haf` signifikasioña.

Sumasaunau finababa, mañake, muna` pinite, dinage, che`chu` tailaye yan otru siha man-seriosu na mattra-ta kontra otru kilisyanu.

Huli`e klaru pinadesen minaipen tautau. Todu un` hasñgune ni kumilulog huyuñg siempre u birague` tatte giya hagu. I tatatte i mas fotte `an pinalo`pu` hau dispues.

Poresu na mauleg in` atetuye inestablesen amesta gi prohimumu. I para un` gai enemigu sumen nachatsaga.

■■■

Ha chule` i tiahu i manu para u tutuhon manguleg eskome. Hu offrese ni ayuduhu. Diberas gai minakat man-guleg. Esta sososgun-yu` masahalom dispues de tres minutus. Ha chule` tatte i manu ya ilegña bai` nañga masan pinada` titiyas gi baranda. Ti matmanyu`.

■■■

Umetogcha` i amiguhu gi hiyuñg Chalan Laulau. I primet na kineni` ha dagau ñaihon konrespetu para i man-mofona. I sigundu ha katuchu` gi insattu para i gima`. Man-pairen hañgun yan hugupau. Kase programan konsetbasion guihan giya Mañagaha umadelanta guihan sanhalom ni mangai mineduñg pa`gu.

Felis Noche Buena para todus!

MAKING

From Page 14

faith stirs up in a believing heart, that God came to Earth on this night long ago to claim a place among us—not above us.

Don't we all desire this belief, even if our lives and the world's cynicism scoff at our childhood hope on this special night?

Mary and Joseph may have fled in fear with their child to Egypt, yet with a joy that was deeper and more powerful because the little boy they clutched needed his mother's milk like the rest of us.

The Word became flesh, became human.

It can be the same for us if we allow our own humanity to be claimed by God on Christmas Eve. We might remember then our forgotten child's song, "Tomorrow will be Christmas, and we will carols sing; So early in the morning, the sweet church bells will ring."

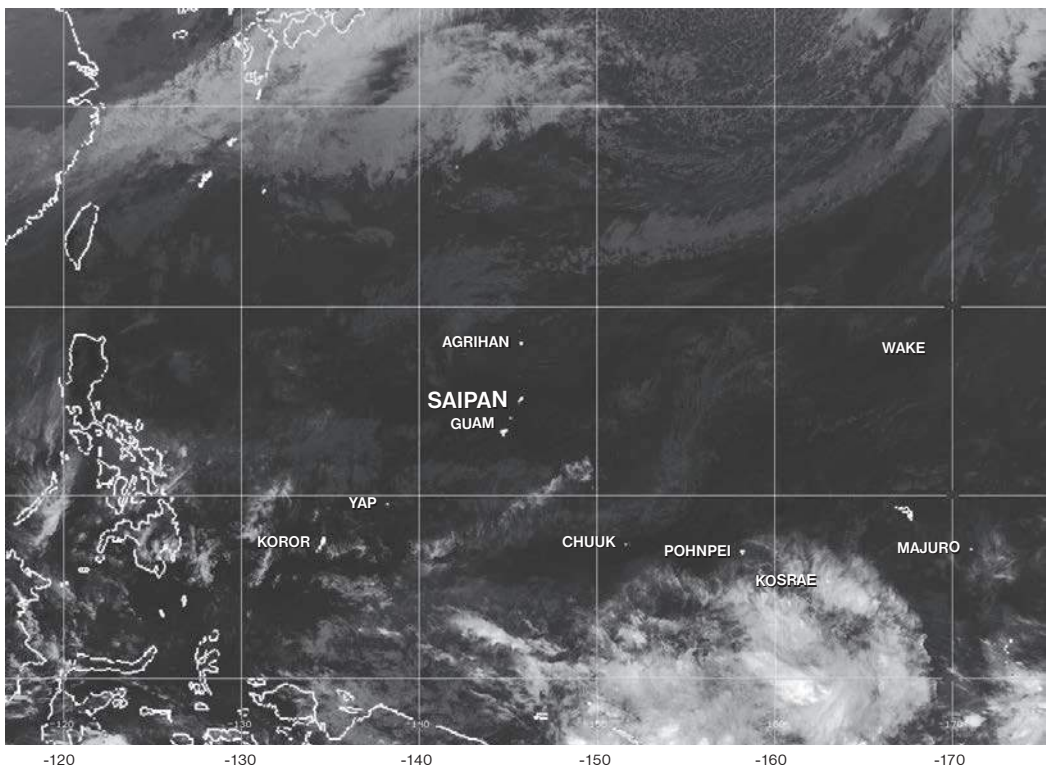
Father Paul F. Morrissey, Order of St. Augustine, is the author of The Black Wall of Silence. *He wrote this for* The Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87º ▼76º	▲86º ▼76º	▲86º ▼76º	▲86º ▼76º	▲87º ▼76º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough heads eastward through 1N130E to beyond the date line at 1N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near Kosrae and south of Pohnpei south of a line from EQ152E to 7N165E to EQ169E and southeast of Majuro east of a line from 5N180 to EQ175E. Low level convergence is generating patchy clouds and scattered showers within 75 miles of a line from 21N174E to 25N179E. A cold front curves west-southwest through 25N160E to end near 23N147E. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are seen along and and up to 130 miles north of the front.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲69	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲42	▼20
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼72
London	Rain	▲54	▼41
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼44
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼72
Melbourne	Sunny	▲94	▼70
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼75
New York	Thundershowers	▲72	▼61
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Paris	Showers	▲55	▼47
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼34
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼42
Salem	Rain	▲44	▼36
San Francisco	Sunny	▲55	▼47
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼25
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼48
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲75	▼63

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
7:30 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
5:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Sunday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Monday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:52 PM	5:03 AM
Friday	5:49 PM	6:02 AM
Saturday	6:45 PM	6:58 AM
Sunday	7:40 PM	7:52 AM
Monday	8:34 PM	8:41 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Miss International China films on Saipan

MVA

Miss International China Xinyue Liu, second from right, takes a photo with cultural dance performers at Kanoa Resort Saipan on Dec. 9, 2015. Also pictured are 2nd place finisher Yanjing Chen, second from left, and 3rd place finisher Biligetana, center.

Miss International China Xinyue Liu was on Saipan earlier this month filming a destination video with other pageant winners, highlighting the natural beauty and numerous tourist attractions of the island.

The video shoot was organized by the pageant committee and China Times Media in cooperation with the Marianas Visitors Authority and will be posted online in January 2016 to over 1 million daily netizens.

Liu, a native of Xinjiang region, was accompanied by runner-up Yanjing Chen of Fujian Province and 3rd place finisher Biligetana of Inner Mongolia.

"This month's filming with Miss International China pageant winners is another tremendous marketing opportunity for the Northern Mariana Islands," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Not only will the formal video be published online, but Miss International China and other winners took a lot of personal photos everywhere they went to share with their WeChat friends and followers."

The pageant winners had a full shooting schedule beginning Dec. 8, 2015. Activities included a submarine tour, a tour of scenic and historic sites in Marpi, Let's Go UTV jungle tour, parasailing and other marine sports at Managaha, tours of Tank Beach and Forbidden Island lookout, and a visit to shopping outlets in downtown Garapan,

International cuisine was enjoyed at 360 Revolving Restaurant, Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort Double Eagle Restaurant, Mariana Resort & Spa lunch buffet, Kanoa Resort Saipan BBQ Dinner Show, Managaha ice cream parlor, Monster Pizza, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Aqua Resort Club seafood buffet dinner, McDonald's, and Hard Rock Café Saipan.

Hotels filmed at were Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, Aqua Resort Club, Mariana Resort & Spa, and PIC Saipan. The group lodged at Kanoa Resort Saipan during their stay.

"Ms. Liu and Biligetana were especially impressed with our beautiful ocean water and blue sky," said MVA marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, who accompanied the group. "They noted that the light is so perfect for photos, they didn't even need to use any special app to edit their snapshots. Ms. Chen is the only one living along the coast, and she couldn't believe the ocean water here in the Northern Marianas is so clear and beautiful."

Liu also met Miss Marianas Jian Joyner at the Miss International pageant held earlier this year in Japan. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Miss International China Xinyue Liu, center, films at Aqua Resort on Dec. 9, 2015, along with 3rd place finisher Biligetana, left, and 2nd place finisher Yanjing Chen, right.

MERRY Christmas CNMI!
Thank you for helping us in our joint efforts to keep the CNMI safe and drug free!
Prevention Services Unit
CHCC: Community Guidance Center
(670)323-6560
Happy Holidays!
Prevention Works. Treatment is Effective. People Recover.
This message is brought to you by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in partnership with the CHCC:Community Guidance Center.

BEAUTIFYING THE LIBRARY DAISY DEMAPAN

Acting governor Ralph DGL Torres, his wife Diann, and their children plant a tree on the grounds of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library on Saturday to celebrate the library's 24th anniversary and support the beautification of the island's only library. Diann Torres later read her published children's book to a crowd of children.

Tax exempt issue delays audit of Settlement Fund

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood wants a full briefing on the CNMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C.H. Tang's position that the Settlement Fund is a non-profit, tax exempt entity under CNMI law.

Tang asked the court last week to confirm the non-profit tax exempt status of the Fund, since this issue has delayed the completion of the Fund's fiscal year 2014 audit.

In her order, Tydingco-Gatewood ordered Tang and the counsel for Betty Johnson's class action to file a joint motion on this issue no later than Dec. 29, 2015.

Tydingco-Gatewood gave the CNMI government until Jan. 5, 2016, to file its response.

The judge will hear the case on Jan. 21, 2016.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she and Tang shall participate in the hearing by video teleconference, and counsel for Johnson's class action may participate in the hearing by telephone.

Tang recently sought a legal opinion from CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan to affirm her interpretation and understanding of the Settlement Fund's status as a non-profit, tax exempt entity.

Tang said Manibusan declined to render a legal opinion stating that the Settlement Fund "does not fall within the scope of representation"—presumably because it is not a CNMI government agency.

According to Tang, the audit for the Settlement Fund fiscal year 2014 by Ernst & Young began in January 2015 and has been completed.

However, Tang said, because of a disagreement between the NMI government and the Settlement Fund on the issue of whether the Settlement Fund is a non-profit tax exempt entity, the completion of the audit has been delayed.

Tang said the Settlement Fund's purpose is not to make a profit.

Tang said as Settlement Fund acting administrator Lillian Pangelinan points out, the Retirement Fund does invest much of its capital and consult with third-party experts in order to accumulate a larger reserve of funds.

However, Tang said that, according to Pangelinan the Retirement Fund's main objective is not to make a profit for those who contribute to the Fund, and thus have an ownership interest in it.

Tang said the tax exemption should equally apply to the Settlement Fund because it is a "creature" of the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Free ANA grant application training in Jan.

Applying for an Administration for Native Americans grant in 2016? Please come to a free two-day ANA pre-application workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 12 and 13, 2016, at the Northern Marianas College campuses. On Saipan, the workshop will be conducted in Room N-5, and on Rota and Tinian, it will be conducted at the VTC Conference Room. The workshop will start at 8:30am and will end at 4:30pm, with lunch break in between.

In this training session, participants will learn how to build a strong grant application, go over ANA's grant scoring criteria, and review submission requirements from the latest Funding Opportunity Announcement. Several changes have been made to ANA's scoring criteria and program areas, so make sure you attend to learn the latest developments in time to complete an application by the expected March 2016 grant submission deadline.

You may come as a walk-in on Jan. 12; however, participants are encouraged to register before Jan. 12 online, at: www.anapacificbasin.org (and click on "Training") so that enough training materials can be provided at the workshop.

This training is provided by the Pacific Region Training and Technical Assistance Center, operated by Ka'anani'au LLC (Hawaii), a resource of the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, write to napua@kaananiau.com. ***(PR)***

JSTA, partners lead Garapan holiday cleanup

In preparation for the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Japan Saipan Travel Association and its tourism partners conducted a cleanup of the main tourist district of Garapan on Dec. 19, 2015.

Fifty-eight volunteers representing 21 companies joined the cleanup beginning at 6:30am. Volunteers, including children, spread out and cleaned up along both the roadside and the beach from the Carolinian Affairs Office to Micro Beach.

Groups and companies joining JSTA included Marianas Visitors Authority, Pacific Development Inc., Pacific Micronesia Tour, Tasi Tours & Transportation, R&C Tours, H.I.S. Saipan, Good Care, Himawari, Aqua Connections, Marine Sports Club Inc., Wondersea, Watabe Wedding, Minimax Scuba, Nippon Travel Agency, Paupau Tours, Aqua Marine, Seashore Dive, Kan Pacific, MASA Dive, Sakura Marine, and Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association.

The cleanup effort netted approximately 200 lbs of trash. ***(MVA)***

MVA

In preparation for the holidays, Japan Saipan Travel Association and its tourism partners conducted a cleanup of Garapan on Dec. 19, 2015, netting approximately 200 lbs of trash.

'Water Task Force transfer benefitted As Terlaje repair'

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a memorandum of agreement signed at the start of the month, the Water Task Force's current projects that shifted to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. have benefitted the As Terlaje 16-inch water main rupture repair.

In addition to the increased water pressure in combination with the gravity flow system coming from CUC's Kannat Tabla tank and the downward motion of the As Terlaje slope, CUC chief engineer John Riegel states that due to the sediment composition and previous engineering of the water main over 15 years ago, ruptures such as the one seen in As Terlaje are common for the island.

He described that the eventual cause of the rupture was from a sharp rock underneath the pipeline.

Board member Joe Torres noted, however, that this was not the first time the As Terlaje pipes have ruptured.

Riegel expressed that because of the sediment composition, a new design has been put in place by putting a cushion of sand around the pipe to protect it against the elements over time.

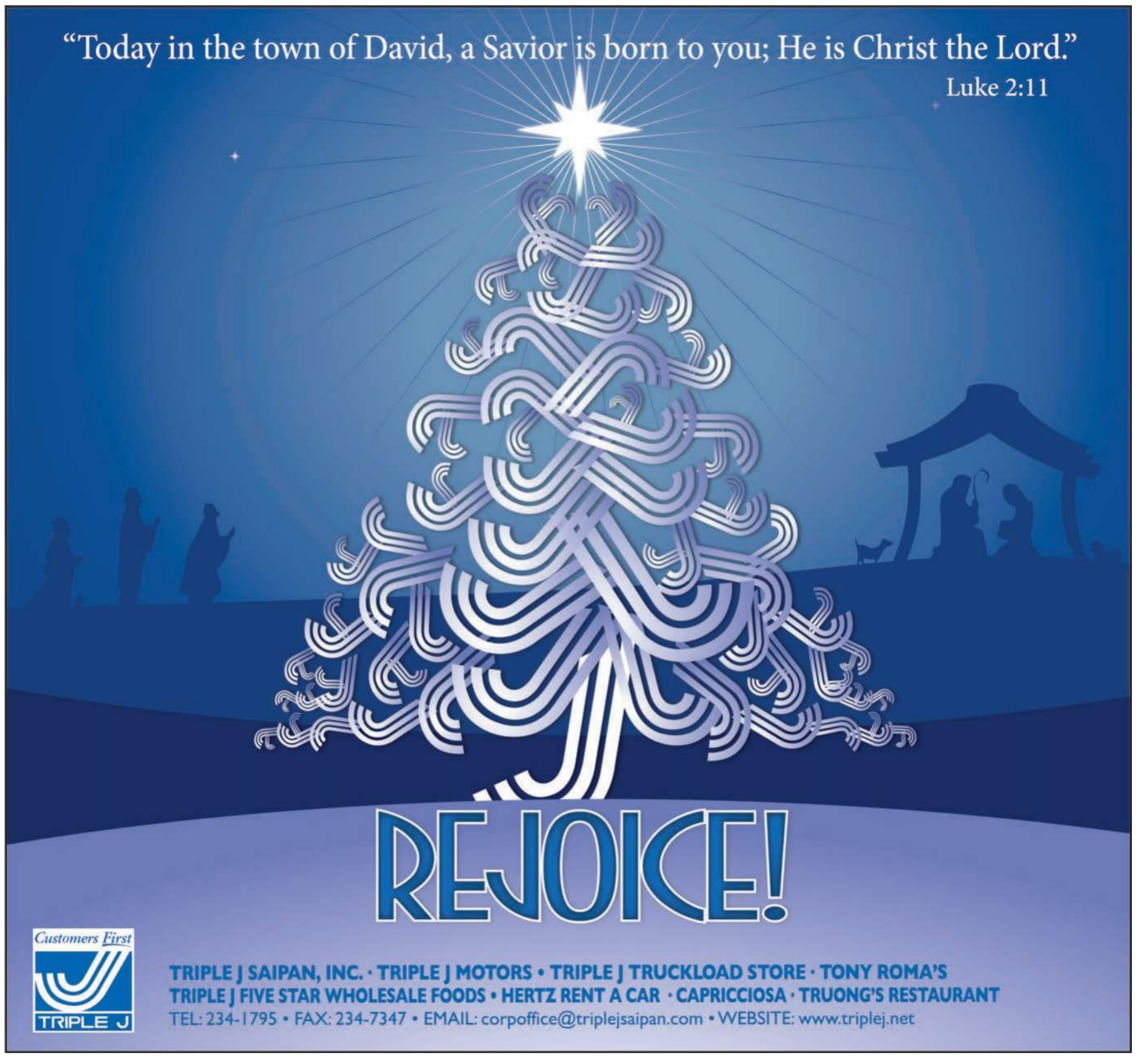
He said the method does not completely safeguard against future ruptures, with Torres adding that concrete reinforcements should be considered.

Riegel added that when the repairs for As Terlaje were made within the first 24 hours, there were no available 16-inch water pipes on island and the only way the repair was completed was from their takeover of the Water Task Force warehouse inventory that just so happened to have a 16-inch pipe available.

Riegel celebrated the accomplishment and noted that the replacement of the Papago reservoir or Superblue new tank is still ongoing and foundation work is underway.

The governor's office, which transferred all former Water Task Force projects to CUC including the warehouse and equipment, includes the construction of the 1.0 million gallon Puerto Rico reservoir that is approximately 95 percent complete, the Gualo Rai reservoir replacement and the Lower Base water main replacement.

A Tinian tank replacement project is awaiting the transfer of expenditure authority that still lies with the Department of Public Works in order for CUC to take over.


"Today in the town of David, a Savior is born to you; He is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11
REJOICE!
Customers First
TRIPLE J
TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC. · TRIPLE J MOTORS · TRIPLE J TRUCKLOAD STORE · TONY ROMA'S
TRIPLE J FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS · HERTZ RENT A CAR · CAPRICCIOSA · TRUONG'S RESTAURANT
TEL: 234-1795 • FAX: 234-7347 • EMAIL: corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com • WEBSITE: www.triplej.net

From the management and staff of

Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com

Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

CUC water customers experiencing outages

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in multiple villages have been experiencing temporary water service outages this week due to low tank levels and mechanical issues.

CUC customers who receive water from the Kannat Tabla reservoir were without service on Tuesday as Engineering and Operations personnel allowed water levels inside the tank to recover. The affected areas included customers in Finasisu, As Terlaje, Chalan Kiya, and Chalan Laulau along Beach Road and Chalan Pale Arnold from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero to Gualo Rai Road.

Water service was expected to be restored to these customers served by the Kannat Tabla reservoir yesterday evening as the Water Division continues to address mechanical issues on multiple pumps in the Isley well field.

The Kannat Tabla reservoir release valve was secured at 9am Tuesday to allow water levels inside the tank to recover. CUC Engineering and Operations personnel later released the water to Kannat Tabla, Chalan Kiya and Finasisu in the evening.

Customers in portions of As Gonno also had no water that day as crews replaced a burnt out well pump that feeds water directly to the immediate area. Water service was expected to be restored to the area by Wednesday evening.

A total of seven high-production wells in the Isley well field remain offline awaiting replacement pumps, two of which provide water for the Kannat Tabla reservoir resulting in CUC's inability to meet customer demand. Until the new pumps arrive, CUC Engineering and Operations personnel will work together to deliver water to all customers, albeit in a limited capacity.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/). ***(CUC)***

More water for drought stricken parts of west Fiji

LAUTOKA, Fiji—One hundred and fifty water tanks will be installed in the most drought affected areas in the Western Division of Fiji from today to ensure water for communities can be accessed by as many people as possible as the drought conditions worsen across the country.

The provision of tanks was made possible with support from the €19.36 million European Union Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific project, which is implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

These tanks will be installed in temporary roadside locations filled by the National Disaster Management Office throughout the Christmas season to ensure the most severely affected areas can access clean and safe drinking water, which is critical to human health.

Uraia Rainima, acting principal assistant secretary for the National Disaster Management Office, said the team is targeting "red zone" communities identified across the Nadi, Nadroga and Ba Districts as they have been identified as the most at risk.

"We are installing these tanks in temporary locations for now so we can ensure more people from these severely affected areas can access water. We are trying to help as many people as possible as this drought worsens.

"The predictions show these conditions will persist until at least March so we are working to ensure we can get clean and safe drinking water to as many people as possible across the country," he said.

Andrew Jacobs, European Union Ambassador for the Pacific, said this use of resources, as part of the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific project, is critical for protecting communities against the impact of this El Niño weather pattern causing the drought.

"Some of the areas most affected in Fiji are highly populated so ensuring access to clean and safe drinking water is critical for these communities and we commend the work the National Disaster Management Office is doing to ensure this critical service is being delivered to as many people as possible," he said.

The water tanks are ready to be dispatched from Lautoka and is expected to be installed immediately when it reaches remote areas of these districts in the coming days.

Taito Nakalevu, project manager of the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific project, said mobilizing these services immediately is crucial to protecting the health of these communities.

"This is why our project is working with National Disaster Management teams all over the Pacific to help get these systems in place for the future. If we can be ready to respond to the oncoming disasters quickly in the future than we are helping build a more resilient Pacific.

"This is why I commend the proactive work the NDMO is doing and we are proud to support them in any way we can to effectively prepare for disasters into the future," he said. ***(SPC)***

On behalf of the CNMI Republican Party, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Here's to a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Thank you and God Bless

Paid for by the CNMI Republican Party

May the peace and joy of Christmas live in your heart all year long.

Merry Christmas

From the Management & Staff of

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Cowboys ride to the rescue of deer trapped in Arizona canal

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP)—Two cowboys are being credited with coming to the rescue of a deer stuck in an Arizona canal. The state Game and Fish Department received several calls Thursday reporting a deer was trapped in a canal near Lake Pleasant, northwest of Phoenix. The animal apparently slipped into the cold water and couldn't scale the canal's steep, concrete walls to get out. Game and Fish officer Reuben Gonzales says two cowboys with lassos happened by and stopped at the scene to help. Video the agency posted on YouTube shows one man standing on a bridge above the canal and dropping a lasso around the deer's antlers as it swims below. Gonzales says Game and Fish officers then carried the stressed, shivering animal out of the water and loaded it into a truck. They then took it to Lake Pleasant Regional Park and released it.

California server finds $32,000 at eatery, returns to owner

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—Police in California say a waiter returned $32,000 in cash after some diners accidentally left it behind. The Fresno Bee reports that a mother and son forgot the cash, which was in a navy blue bag, at an Applebee's restaurant Wednesday night. The money was from a family restaurant and rental income and they were on their way to the bank when they stopped for dinner. When the waiter found the money he told his boss, who called police. The money was ultimately returned to the family. The server was not identified. He told police he did not want any publicity.

Indiana mayor re-elected by 1 vote after ballot challenge

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The mayor of an Indiana town has been re-elected by one vote after an election panel threw out a ballot. Jasper held a recount this week after the November election between Republican Mayor Terry Seitz and Democratic rival Wayne Schuetter ended in a tie. On Friday, a local election panel determined one ballot cast for Schuetter was invalid. City attorney Renee Kabrick said the absentee ballot was tossed out because it lacked a signature. Seitz says the close race underscores the fact that every vote counts. Indiana law required the recount to be completed by Dec. 20.

Our family wishes you
and yours a Christmas rich
with family love,
warm with friendship
and blessed with the joys
of the holiday season.

And our best wishes for a new year happy
with life's goodness and prosperity.

Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Kilili, Andrea and family

Paid for by Kilili for Congress

Science & Technology

Gift Guide: The season's weird and wacky tech gifts

By BREE FOWLER
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Whether you're shopping for a Trekkie, a tech-savvy fisherman or a paranoid chef, gadget gifts abound this year. They may be weird or wacky, but they are sure to be memorable as last-minute gifts for the geek who has everything.

HAN SOLO FRIDGE ($160)

Nothing says chill like Han Solo frozen in carbonite. This mini fridge's front door features a 3-D rendering of a frosty Han and holds 18 canned beverages.

The fridge can switch between cold and warm modes, but sadly a dreamy 1980s Harrison Ford doesn't collapse at your feet when you switch the heat on. The fridge door does, however, give off the same eerie red glow that appeared when Princess Leia thawed him out in "Return of the Jedi."

Want something more contemporary? ThinkGeek also sells a tiny $70 mini fridge that holds just a six-pack. It looks like the BB-8 droid from the new "Star Wars" movie.

Online: http://www.thinkgeek.com/product/1caf

FOODSNIFFER ($130)

'Tis the season for overeating, leftovers and food poisoning. Got friends who like to shove meat to the back of the fridge only to find it a little past its "use by" date?

The Foodsniffer may be the gift you're looking for. The device will "sniff" your slightly funky chicken, beef, pork or fish. It senses certain volatile organic compounds that are emitted when food starts to decompose. Through a smartphone app, you see whether the meal is fresh, starting to spoil or spoiled.

The device won't detect the presence of gastroenteritis from bacteria such as salmonella or e. coli, so make sure you cook your food sufficiently, even if it's deemed fresh.

Online: http://myfoodsniffer.com

"STAR TREK" PHASER UNIVERSAL REMOTE REPLICA ($150)

"Star Wars" is all the rage now, with hundreds of products tied to the new movie. But Trekkies need their toys, too.

For the Captain Kirk in your life, this universal remote has been recreated with 3-D scans of Star Trek props.

You operate this remote using motion rather than buttons. It combines the small mini phaser and the larger pistol-shaped phaser models used as weapons on "Star Trek." The smaller one can be used separately or inserted into the larger phaser, which has a pistol-grip base.

Beam strengths can be customized, and the remote makes a variety of phaser firing sounds. A metal stand with a hidden magnet is included, making the phaser easy to grab if your home is overrun by Tribbles, or you just need to change the channel.

Online: http://www.thinkgeek.com/product/1db4

IBOBBER ($100)

Hooking Moby Dick is easier when you've got portable sonar on your side.

The iBobber fish finder attaches to your fishing line and floats on the surface of the water. Once you cast it, the iBobber can show you where fish are and how big they are. It also maps the floor of the waterbed, letting you know how deep the water is and pointing out obstacles, as far down as 135 feet, whether you fishing from shore, boat or dock.

The device syncs with your phone via Bluetooth and displays the images on your screen. It's not video, but more like a cartoon graphical representation of what's below you.

The app keeps a log of your excursions. Favorite fishing spots can be tagged with GPS in case you need to come back later to catch the big one that got away.

Online: http://reelsonar.com

MISTLETOE DRONE ($70)

What's a gift guide for geeks without some kind of drone? Even better, this drone can act as a remote-controlled wingman for those looking for a holiday smooch.

The mistletoe drone hovers with a pair of counter-rotating rotors. An infrared remote provides throttle and directional control.

For a big party, up to 20 of these drones can be flown independently without radio interference problems.

The drone's rechargeable battery provides up to five minutes of flight and takes 30 minutes to charge through its remote.

When controlling it, just make sure the drone ends up over the right person. A mistake can be disastrous.

Online: http://www.hammacher.com/Product/87706

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
AIR CONDITIONING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE
SERVICE AND REPAIRS SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AND PORT OF SAIPAN (CPA-IFB-001-16)

INVITATION FOR BID

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of this Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies and/or corporations to provide Air Conditioning Preventive Maintenance, Service and Repairs at the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan.

This IFB is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-205, Invitation for Bid, is applicable to the process followed by the IFB.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning December 18, 2015 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The Bid Package includes the Scope of Work and other considerations upon payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) to be paid at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the bid package. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Saipan International Airport Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Terminal Departure Building at 10:00 a.m., January 6, 2016, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A walk through of the Airport facility will be afforded to all contractors immediately after the conference, or may be scheduled with Jack Tagabuel' of CPA's Maintenance Department by calling telephone numbers 237-6532 or 483-4516. A subsequent walk through of the Port of Saipan facility will follow on January 7, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.. There are 142 units of air conditioning at the airport and 20 units at the seaport.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Bid for air-conditioning preventive maintenance, service and repairs at the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan, CPA-IFB-001-16."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2 p.m. LOCAL TIME, January 15, 2016,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement, Delivery and Programming of Radio Equipment for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
Project No. CPA-SA-002-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure, deliver and program/configure brand new radio equipment for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and programming of frequencies for all new equipment.

The radio equipment shall include the quantities and details as provided in the scope of work and product specifications provided with the scope. The scope and product data are available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office.

The proposals shall include the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Team Members;
3. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
4. Available resources to accomplish the project;
5. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
6. Valid Business License.

The contract period for procurement and installation will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the acceptance date without approved excuse by CPA.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

The procurement is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

All This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Total cost for equipment procurement, delivery and programming	35%
2.	Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	35%
3.	Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
4.	Timeframe for delivery and programming	10%

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to Assistant ARFF Chief William Camacho at bcamacho@cpa.gov.mp.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: December 22, 2015

Life & Style

Q&A: Tarantino on the battles behind 'The Hateful Eight'

NEW YORK (AP)—Quentin Tarantino is waging wars on multiple fronts.

His eighth and latest film, "The Hateful Eight," is his loudest, brashest defense of celluloid in the battle between film and digital. He shot it in Ultra Panavision, the dormant widescreen format of "Ben-Hur" and other '60s epics, and he's releasing the film first in a 70mm roadshow beginning Friday, a week before a trimmer, digital version lands in multiplexes.

For even Tarantino it's an audacious gambit to release a three hour-plus film (complete with an overture and intermission) in a method that few theaters can still project, let alone know how to. In a multi-screen era, "The Hateful Eight" is an invitation to a full meal of Movie Night.

The movie, too, sits on a divide; Tarantino calls it "a blue-state, red-state Western." Part Agatha Christie mystery, part post-Civil War explosion, "The Hateful Eight" is about an ex-Union soldier and bounty hunter (Samuel L. Jackson) holed up during a blizzard with an assortment of suspicious characters and a handful of proud Confederates (Walton Goggins, Bruce Dern). As tension builds, politics and lies slowly peel away.

Tarantino

Tarantino, 52, has also been swept into a political battle of his own. After the filmmaker attended a New York protest against police brutality in October, police unions called for a boycott of "The Hateful Eight."

But if ever there was a filmmaker who welcomes confrontation, it's Tarantino. In a recent interview beside a roaring fire at an East Village hotel, a calm and confident Tarantino, fighting a cold, reflected on the conflicts that surround "The Hateful Eight."

AP: For you, does the racist clash at the heart of "Hateful Eight" relate to contemporary problems?

Tarantino: I was excited about trapping these exciting characters in a kind of "Reservoir Dogs" Western, and interested in throwing my hat into the mystery genre. But during the last year of making it, things in the news just kept happening that made the movie more relevant and more relevant. I don't want to go to dinner on that too much. The movie has to work as the movie. But the murders at the Mother Emanuel Church is sort of what this movie's about to some degree or another.

AP: How do you feel about race relations today?

Tarantino: Sometimes things need to get really bad before they can ever get better. Really bad can become untenable if enough people get sick of it. That was a big thing about why I ended up taking part in that rally and ended up voicing my opinion and declaring what side I was standing on.

AP: You provoked quite a reaction from police groups, one of which threatened "a surprise" for the release of "Hateful Eight."

Tarantino: You should be able to criticize civil servants for what you think is wrongdoing without being painted as a cop-hater. I don't feel the police are all corrupt, however I do feel they are suffering from institutional racism and there needs to be a top-to-bottom examination of the way they practice and the way they criminalize young black and brown males. The fact that they seem to have backed off from it seems to suggest they realize they overreacted on me and it looks bad.

AP

This photo provided by The Weinstein Company shows, Kurt Russell, from left, Jennifer Jason Leigh, and Bruce Dern, in a scene from the film, "The Hateful Eight," directed by Quentin Tarantino. The movie opens in U.S. theaters on Jan. 1, 2016.

AP: Your film will play in two versions: a scaled-down roadshow, followed by a wider released version.

Tarantino: The movie that plays in most theaters and most malls and stuff, artistically, everything, it's the exact same movie. It's a little more audience friendly, a little less impressed with itself. But if you go see the roadshow version, if you go to that, you're mine. It's like you're seeing Placido Domingo at the Paris opera house, or you're seeing La Boheme at La Scala or even Pacino on Broadway in "Iceman Cometh." You get the program and the overture and intermission: That's what you're doing that night. Everything else you do is secondary to going to see my movie that night.

AP: "Let's slow it down," as Jackson's character says, seems to be ethos of the film, which slowly, deliberately gathers suspense.

Tarantino: I really considered doing it as a play first. I might literally do it as a play, as soon as next year. I don't know. I have to go around the world tour and see if I still have the juice for it. If I don't have the juice now, I could easily do it three years from now. In fact, that's kind of the plan.

AP: Do you worry about the audience's patience?

Tarantino: If it's too much for people, if audiences don't accept it, well I guess that's just the way it is. I'm not being cavalier when it comes to my financial partners, but I think I've earned the right to do my thing my way. While I really want it to do well and it would be lovely if it's popular, movies are for a long time. I'm really proud of the piece. If it ends up not connecting with audiences, I won't be heartbroken. I'll be a little disappointed, but I won't be heartbroken.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP16-OPA-025

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 07, 2016 TIME: 10:00 AM

"FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND (NMIRF) AND GROUP HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE TRUST FUND (GHLITF), AS COMPONENT UNITS OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015"

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS.

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. DAVID BLAKE, AUDIT MANAGER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MICHAEL PAI, CPA
PUBLICA AUDITOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP16-BECQ-024

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 13, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK DATABASE DEVELOPMENT, A PROJECT UNDER THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 10, 2015 AT THE BECQ OFFICE LOCATED AT THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, ON CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO derekchambers@becq.gov.mp DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 29, 2015 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, IN THE 2ND FLOOR BECQ CONFERENCE ROOM.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE SUBMITTED TO FACSIMILE TO MR. DEREK CHAMBERS AT (670) 664-8500 OR BY EMAIL AT derekchambers@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JANAURY 04, 2016. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP16-BEQ-028

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 13, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS, A PROJECT UNDER THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 10, 2015 AT THE BECQ OFFICE LOCATED AT THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, ON CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY EMAIL REQUEST TO ryanokano@becq.gov.mp DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 29, 2015 AT 1:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, IN THE 2ND FLOOR BECQ CONFERENCE ROOM.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO MR. RYAN OKANO AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY EMAIL AT ryanokano@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JANUARY 04, 2016. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WILL ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

In Loving Memory Of

†Remedio Aldan Villagomez

(Lovingly known as Bedu)

October 15, 1946 – December 22, 2015

In Her New Life, She now joins Her:

Husband: Joaquin Tenorio Villagomez
Son: Joseph Aldan
Daughter: Lisa Marie A. Villagomez
Granddaughter: Yurigina lynn Michelle
Parents: Jose Castro and Rita M. Aldan
Parents in Law: Jose S. and Antonia T. Villagomez

Her memories will forever live in the Hearts of her:

Children:
Raymond A. & Janice Attao Villagomez
(Kaelani Kay & Jack Vincent)
Jeffrey A. & Ana Teregeyo Villagomez (Ryan)
Carmen V. & Stanley L. Laniyo
(Carley & Kindo Kiyu)
Frankie Cabrera & Vera Tudela
(Devon, Deko, Dennica, & Denzel)
†**Lisa A.** Villagomez
(Yuriginalynn Michelle, Jackielynn & Ciara Alyssa)

Brothers/Sisters and In Law
Vicente M. & Lita Aldan
†Victoria A. & †Jose Dela Cruz
†Dolores A. & Manuel Sn Lizama
Juan A. & Maria T. Aldan
Merced A. & †Alfred Earl Hockett
Maria A. & †Max De Leon Guerrero
†Alfred M. & Miriam Aldan
Ramon M. & Frances B. Aldan
†Ignacio M. & Teresita R. Aldan

Brothers and Sisters In Law
†Daniel T. Villagomez & Rosario De Leon Guerrero
†Roman T. & Cecilia M. Villagomez
†Antonio T. & †Remedio De Leon Guerrero
†Jesus T. & Vicenta A. Villagomez
†Jose T. & Magdalena T. Villagomez
†Remedio Camacho
†Ricardo T. & Francisco T. Villagomez
Francisco A. & Isabel V. Camacho
Ron & Frances V. Sintkowski

She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Nightly rosary is being prayed each evening at 7:00pm
at St. Jude Church in Koblerville.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, December 29, 2015.
Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel to St. Jude Church.

Responso service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am followed by her burial at Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Please join us in prayers,

From The Family

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Auction of Stallone's film memorabilia fetches $3 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An auction of Sylvester Stallone's black leather "Rocky" jacket and other movie memorabilia has earned more than $3 million. Heritage Auctions President Greg Rohan says Stallone's leather jacket was the top item sold at the three-day auction, with a winning bid of $149,000. A poncho worn by Stallone in the first "Rambo" film fetched $60,000 in a sale that featured boxing trunks and gloves, and other items from the actor-director's storied career. Portions of the proceeds will benefit military charities. Stallone attended the auction's first day and mingled with fans. The 69-year-old Oscar nominee announced the sale in July but said it didn't mean he was saying goodbye to the characters who made him famous. Stallone reprised his role as Rocky Balboa in the recent film "Creed."

'Real Housewives' star due to be released from prison

DANBURY, Conn. (AP)—One of New Jersey's "Real Housewives" is set to be freed after serving nearly a year in prison for bankruptcy fraud. A lawyer for Teresa Giudice (JOO'-dys) says she will travel home to Montville, New Jersey, upon her release Wednesday from the Danbury Federal Correctional Institution in Connecticut. She will be on home confinement until Feb. 5. Giudice has been at the prison since January. She and her husband, Joe Giudice, pleaded guilty last year to bankruptcy fraud. They admitted hiding assets from bankruptcy creditors and submitting phony loan applications to get some $5 million in mortgages and construction loans. Joe Giudice is expected to start his own prison sentence in March. A federal judge staggered the couple's sentences in deference to their four daughters.

Grand jury to decide fate of trucker in Tracy Morgan crash

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP)—A grand jury is set to decide whether to indict the truck driver who slammed into a limo carrying Tracy Morgan, killing one man and severely injuring the comedian. That was revealed Tuesday in a court hearing where an attorney for Kevin Roper sought to have charges of vehicular homicide and assault by auto thrown out. The Jonesboro, Georgia, man was driving a Wal-Mart truck in June 2014 when he crashed into Morgan's limo van, killing comedian James McNair and seriously injured Morgan and others. An assistant Middlesex County prosecutor told the judge that a county grand jury would release its findings Wednesday, NJ.com reported. Roper's lawyer, David Glassman, wants the charges dismissed, citing what he said was unfair pretrial publicity generated by Morgan's multimillion-dollar lawsuit against Wal-Mart.

Danish "Graceland" museum changes name after lawsuit

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Denmark's Elvis museum, a replica of Presley's Graceland Mansion home in Memphis, is changing its name after a lawsuit for infringement of the "Graceland" trademark. Henrik Knudsen, who opened Graceland Randers in 2011, says the Memphis, Tennessee-based Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc. has demanded a name change and 1.5 million kroner ($220,000) in compensation. The Danish replica, twice the size of the original Graceland, is situated in Randers, 210 kilometers (130 miles) northwest of the capital, Copenhagen. It includes Knudsen's private collection of Elvis artifacts, an American diner-style restaurant and a souvenir shop. Knudsen said Tuesday he will change the name of the museum to Memphis Mansion as of Jan. 1, so that he can "focus on our business."

Critics' Choice add 'Force Awakens' as best picture nominee

NEW YORK (AP)—The Critics' Choice Awards have added "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" as an 11th best-picture nominee.

After announcing their nominees last week, the group's board of directors reconvened to add J.J. Abrams' acclaimed "Star Wars" sequel to their best picture category. Its members hadn't been able to see "The Force Awakens" before sending in their ballots.

Many awards groups, like the Hollywood Foreign Press' Golden Globes, announced their honors before seeing "The Force Awakens." One exception was the American Film Institute, which selected "The Force Awakens" as one of its 10 best of the year after delaying its announcement in order to see it first.

The Critics' Choice Awards will be broadcast from Los Angeles on Jan. 17. "Mad Max: Fury Road" leads with 13 nods, including best picture.

Publicist: Nicolas Cage was buyer of stolen dinosaur skull

NEW YORK (AP)—Nicolas Cage has agreed to give back a national treasure from Mongolia.

A publicist for the star of the "National Treasure" adventure films confirmed Tuesday that Cage was the unwitting buyer of a dinosaur skull that federal prosecutors in New York say was stolen. Prosecutors announced last week that they were seeking court approval to take custody of the 32-inch fossil so it could be returned to the Asian nation, but they did not name the buyer.

Cage purchased the skull at auction from Los Angeles-based I.M. Chait gallery and auction house and received a certificate of authenticity, publicist Alex Schack said in an email. After being notified last year that authorities suspected the item was stolen, the actor "fully cooperated with the investigation, including arranging an inspection of the fossil by agents," and later agreed to forfeit it, Schack said.

Cage

According to court papers, investigators believe the skull was looted from the Gobi Desert in Mongolia and shipped through Japan to Gainesville, Florida, in June 2006 bearing a false customs label.

The piece was auctioned in Manhattan on March 25, 2007, selling for $230,000 plus a commission that raised the total paid by the then-anonymous buyer to $276,000, the papers said. It had been marketed as an "extremely rare" Tyrannosaurus skull from the late Cretaceous period, which ended about 65 million years ago.

"The battery of huge, knife-like, serrated teeth are quite impressive and are in excellent condition," court papers quoted the auction catalog as saying of a skull that was 65 percent complete. "Overall, this remarkable specimen is scientifically accurate and important."

It was unclear whether the skull has ties to Eric Prokopi, a former fossils dealer who pleaded guilty to charges he smuggled multiple shipments of dinosaur bones between 2010 and 2012 that had been stolen from the Gobi Desert. Court papers say Prokopi had sold stolen fossils to I.M. Chait, which has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

Since 2012, prosecutors have used civil and criminal actions to return to Mongolia of several dinosaur fossils that include multiple Tyrannosaurus and other skeletons, dinosaur eggs and small prehistoric lizards and turtles.

Man jailed after student threatened over "Star Wars" spoiler

HELENA, Montana (AP)—A Montana man was charged with threatening to shoot a boy for sharing information about a subplot of the new "Star Wars" movie during an online conversation.

Arthur Charles Roy was charged with felony assault with a weapon Monday during an appearance in Lewis and Clark County Justice Court. He remains jailed with his bail set at $10,000.

Roy, 18, became angry Thursday when he learned details about "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," from a Facebook friend, prosecutors said.

Roy sent the friend a picture of himself with a gun and threatened to come to the victim's school to shoot him, court records said. Roy reportedly said the gun was a Colt 1911 with a "hair trigger."

The friend called a school resource officer Thursday afternoon to report the threat.

Helena's alternative high school was locked down Friday morning after students said they were afraid Roy might follow through with his threat. Police arrested Roy on Friday afternoon. He declined to answer questions on the advice of his attorney, court records said.

Roy's mother asked why her son was being arrested since it was only a BB gun in the photo, charging documents said.

Chris Abbott, Roy's public defender in an ongoing separate case, wasn't immediately available to comment Tuesday. It's not clear if Abbott has been assigned to this case.

The Joffrey Ballet's 'The Nutcracker' wins Goldstar prize

NEW YORK (AP)—The Joffrey Ballet's long-running version of "The Nutcracker" has once again won the Goldstar National Nutcracker Award, the third and last time that particular Christmas show will be seen.

Ticket discounter Goldstar said Tuesday that the Chicago-based show beat out more than 106 other "Nutcracker"-themed productions to win the 9th annual audience-favorite prize, which includes a cash prize for its education programs.

For 28 years, The Joffrey Ballet's production has been a beloved part of Chicago's holiday season. Conceived and directed by founding artistic director Robert Joffrey, Joffrey's interpretation of the tale is light and magical, featuring lush sets and costumes. This third win makes The Joffrey Ballet the most decorated show in the competition's nine years.

The Joffrey's final run of this "Nutcracker"—next season brings Christopher Wheeldon's new take on the classic—concludes Dec. 27 at the Auditorium. Wheeldon won a Tony Award for "An American in Paris."

Voting for the Goldstar National Nutcracker Award is determined by Goldstar members who rate and review "The Nutcracker" productions they recently attended. Previous winners include the Debbie Allen Dance Academy and Boston Ballet.

"There were so many 'Nutcracker' productions people loved in cities all across the country, but in the end, The Joffrey Ballet proved to be the crowd favorite," Goldstar CEO Jim McCarthy said. "We'd like to congratulate the entire cast and crew for their remarkable work."

Mom is exposed as a accomplice by daughter's rude classmate

DEAR ABBY: My 7-year-old daughter, "Rosie," recently came home in tears because a classmate, "Emily," told her I was a liar and she was an idiot for believing my lies. Then Rosie asked me if I had been the one putting money under her pillow and presents under the tree all along. Ultimately, I told her that, yes, I had. But I stressed how important it was that she not ruin other kids' belief in the tooth fairy, etc.

The cat is out of the bag for my child, but do you think I should mention this to Emily's mother? We are friendly, but not close. She lives near me, so I run into her often. I'm not just upset that Emily told Rosie, but also that she was so rude. I don't want that girl to do this to more kids.

It's not about criticizing the mother's parenting skills. My kids need correction sometimes, too. I just believe it takes a village and we should all work together as parents. What are your thoughts?

CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG IN MARYLAND

DEAR CAT'S OUT: It's a shame that your daughter got the news the way she did. But in situations like this, when one child knows something the others don't, it's not unusual for the child to share the "news."

Emily was out of line to have said what she did to your daughter, particularly in saying that she couldn't trust you, because it could have far-reaching implications. By all means have a word with Emily's mother.

DEAR ABBY: I have an extreme aversion to alcohol and those who consume it. I suspect that it comes from having a father who was a violent, emotionally abusive alcoholic. Alcohol has zero appeal for me and, as I'm in my mid-20s, it's difficult for me to go on outings with friends without having to go to a bar. I become that grumpy, silent person in the corner.

Because of this, my fiancee has begun socializing with her family and our friends without me. Most recently, they celebrated a sibling's 21st birthday and left me home across the country. Talking to her and knowing she's at a bar and drinking makes me extremely angry, and we almost always end up in a fight about it.

I know this is MY problem. Do you have any advice on getting over it?

DOESN'T TOUCH THE STUFF IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR DOESN'T TOUCH: Yes. Either get counseling for your issues and to help you recognize that not everyone who enjoys an alcoholic beverage is an alcoholic, or find a woman to marry whose views more closely match your own. There is a support group called Adult Children of Alcoholics that might be helpful to you if you attend some meetings. You can find a group near you by going to www.adultchildren.org.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

SEE MY SNOWMAN?
HE'S ENJOYING A SNOW CONE! THERES NOTHING HE LIKES BETTER!
AND THE SNOWMAN WITH THE ICE CREAM SCOOP IN HIS BACK?
IT'S A SORDID STORY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HELP!!
I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY CHRISTMAS SWEATER! I'M TANGLED IN THE WIRES FOR THE LIGHTS!
FELIZ NAVIDAD...
I TOLD YOU THAT THING HAD TOO MANY BELLS AND WHISTLES. IT'S CRAZY!
CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS LATER? MY NOSE IS CAUGHT ON THE CANDY CANE DISPENSER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

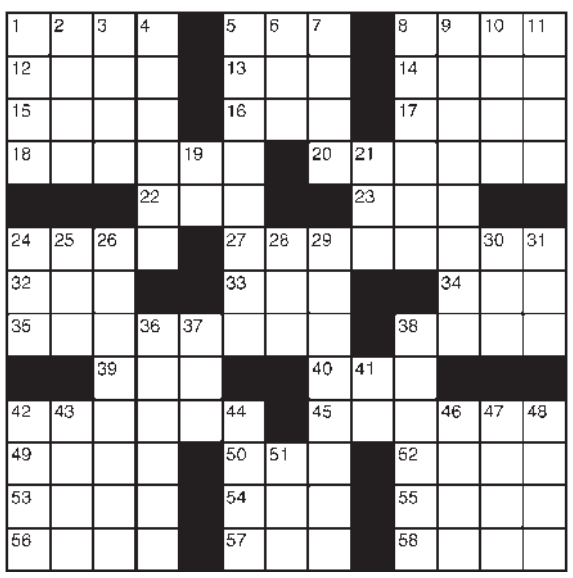
ACROSS
1 Artist Chagall
5 "Woof!"
8 Q-V link
12 Lab gel
13 Miss Piggy's query
14 Seth's son
15 Big rig
16 Short haircut
17 Warsaw native
18 TV promo
20 Grumpy looks
22 Golf teacher
23 Eyeball
24 — -bitsy
27 Winter wheel
32 Lion's home
33 "— Were a Rich Man"
34 Fled
35 Winter missile
38 Modern RCA product
39 Spider's trap
40 — -mo replay
42 Spurn
45 Exotic isle
49 Yankee nickname
50 Lennon's lady
52 Yemen neighbor
53 Comic Kaplan
54 Van alternative (Abbr.)
55 Twain's Finn
56 Cold War inits.
57 Fr. holy woman
58 Chooses

DOWN
1 Sail support
2 Baseball's Tommie
3 Hindu deity
4 Like potato chips
5 Food of the gods
6 Kanga's kid
7 Little lies
8 News bulletin
9 Part-time Florida resident
10 Car payment?
11 Exploits
19 Hosp. triage area
21 Mooing ma
24 Wallet cards (Abbr.)
25 Sawbuck
26 Con games
28 Super Bowl org.
29 Rustic cooker
30 Fink
31 Ltr. holder
36 Garden tool
37 "East-Enders" airer
38 Yule laughs
41 "— Law" (legal drama)
42 Prego rival
43 Ages
44 Chuck
46 "No need to wake me"
47 Diplomacy
48 Pen fluids
51 Fruitcake

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	⁻	A	B	■	H	A	H	■	G	O	N	E
O	R	C	A	■	M	P	I	■	E	V	I	L
H	A	R	D	R	O	C	K	■	N	E	L	L
O	M	E	G	A	■	■	E	N	T	R	E	E
■	■	■	U	M	P	S	■	E	S	E	■	■
R	U	B	Y	■	E	T	T	A	■	A	I	M
U	R	L	■	F	O	I	S	T	■	S	R	A
T	■	O	■	A	N	N	A	■	R	Y	A	N
■	■	W	A	R	■	T	R	I	O	■	■	■
I	M	H	O	M	E	■	■	C	O	L	I	S
R	O	A	R	■	E	A	S	Y	M	A	R	K
M	A	R	T	■	L	I	T	■	C	T	U	I
A	N	D	A	■	S	L	Y	■	D	E	E	D

Yesterday's answer 12-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Seacrest, 41; Stephenie Meyer, 42; Ricky Martin, 44; Diedrich Bader, 49.

Happy Birthday: Settle down and settle in. It's your staying power that will make the difference this year. If you jump from one thing to another, you will fall short in the end. Believe and trust in yourself. Offer love and patience to others and you will get more than your fair share in return. Reach out to people from your past to enrich your future. Your numbers are 2, 7, 15, 23, 34, 39, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get in touch with old friends or relatives you don't get to see often. Sharing memories and catching up on what's new will motivate you to put some plans together for the upcoming year. Positive thoughts will bring good results. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your charm and diplomacy will make everyone want to be around you. Make a difference to someone who has been feeling a little down. Express your opinion, make suggestions and offer help. Do something nice for someone you love. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't go overboard. There will be plenty of excitement and it will be easy to overdo it. Overspending, overindulging and making promises you cannot keep will all lead to trouble. Slow down and pace yourself before you burn out. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Deck the halls and spread a little festive cheer. Whether you are at home, with friends or your colleagues, do your best to make those around you smile. Someone you love will offer you something special. Children will brighten your day. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Show your gratitude and pay it forward. Lend a helping hand to someone in need or volunteer at your community soup kitchen. The greatest gift you can give is to do something nice for someone. If someone disappoints you, be gracious and forgiving. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do your best to help elders or take on responsibilities to ease the stress for someone you love. Words of wisdom and affection will go a long way toward improving your personal life and relationships. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Problems will mount at home if you haven't left yourself enough time to get everything ready for the festivities. Don't argue or make impulsive changes. A disciplined approach to what needs to be done will help you avoid criticism and a family feud. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A big surprise is heading your way. Do your best to make someone else happy. Making arrangements to do something out of the ordinary will be rewarding for you and the one you love. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make last-minute changes around the house that will bring a little festive cheer to this evening. You don't have to overspend to impress. Your generous spirit and kind words will do wonders for family morale. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your concerns are unwarranted. Relax and enjoy the warmth and comfort of your home and the ones you love the most. It isn't necessary to make impulsive purchases or spur-of-the-moment trips. Put romance first. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Time spent with children or your lover will be rewarding and remind you what life is all about. Put together a last-minute surprise for someone special and you will make a difference in his or her life. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A quiet evening with people you love will add to your comfort and joy. Reminiscing about the past and speculating about the future will lead to laughter and tears. A gift from an unexpected source will surprise you. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are articulate, questioning and broadminded. You are serious and intense.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6			1		3	5		7
	8			2			4	
1								
3								6
	4						2	
2								4
								1
	2			5			9	
7		1	4		6			8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	5	3	8	2	9	1	4	7
7	8	4	1	5	3	6	9	2
1	2	9	7	4	6	5	8	3
5	6	8	2	9	7	3	1	4
4	3	1	6	8	5	7	2	9
9	7	2	4	3	1	8	5	6
2	4	6	5	7	8	9	3	1
8	9	7	3	1	2	4	6	5
3	1	5	9	6	4	2	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/24

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

At the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the

EGGNOG **Solution: 5 letters**

Y	E	S	D	O	O	F	L	A	V	O	R	I	N	G
T	T	V	T	E	S	S	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	E
R	S	R	R	S	H	S	E	R	F	S	M	S	R	M
A	A	A	A	E	E	S	M	U	R	A	G	Ⓟ	E	T
P	T	L	O	D	S	U	I	M	N	N	Ⓞ	I	C	U
U	G	L	P	T	I	S	G	N	I	Ⓤ	W	R	I	N
N	S	I	E	E	E	T	I	V	Ⓡ	X	E	I	P	L
C	A	H	N	C	H	C	I	D	R	A	E	T	E	O
H	M	C	I	I	U	G	E	O	M	E	G	S	S	O
K	T	P	C	S	S	M	U	Y	N	O	T	R	A	C
N	S	K	T	K	U	Q	Y	D	N	A	R	B	D	O
I	I	A	N	S	I	V	A	N	I	L	L	A	D	F
R	R	A	N	L	T	S	P	R	I	N	K	L	E	F
D	H	O	M	E	M	A	D	E	E	G	G	S	D	E
T	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	T	T	A	L	E

© 2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 12/24

Added, Brandy, Carton, Chill, Chocolate, Christmas, Cinnamon, Coffee, Consumed, Cool, Creamy, Custard, Drink, Eggs, Flavoring, Food, Fresh, Garnished, Glass, Guests, Holidays, Homemade, Latte, Liquor, Mixes, Nutmeg, Open, Party, Pour, Punch, Recipes, Rums, Serve, Spices, Spirits, Sprinkle, Taste, Thanksgiving, Thick, Toast, Traditional, Vanilla

Yesterday's Answer: Bloodline

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

Looking for an experienced Coordinator:
The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization with over 150 business members and is the largest private business organization in the CNMI.
Hours: Mon-Friday, full time from 8:00 to 5:00 plus evening and weekend hours during events.

Unconditional Job Requirements:
- 2-3 years of experience in a top-level, high-pressure, deadline-oriented executive environment as an administrative assistant
- Intermediate to advanced MS Office, calendaring, written and verbal communications, event planning
- Critical thinker, well organized, detail oriented
- Self-motivated, efficient, productive, prompt, and responsible
- Must have own transportation

Salary: $8 to $12 hourly, medical insurance.

Please submit resume with cover letter and references in person to Chamber office during weekday hours (8am to noon, 1pm to 5pm). Marianas Business Plaza, 3rd floor, front of building.

NOW LEASING
SECTION 8 VOUCHER ACCEPTED
IRONWOOD
NEW 2, 3, and 4 bedroom energy efficient apartments in Saipan.
Lower utility costs up to 70% through solar panels and solar hot water.
OPEN HOUSE • MONDAY-FRIDAY • 9AM - 4PM
For pictures, amenities, and application information visit our website
www.ironwoodhousing.com
or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?
You're looking at it!
Saipan Tribune 235-6397

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Women, Infants, and Children Program

The CNMI WIC Program is looking for the following Interpreter:

Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)

Requirement Qualifications:
- Fluent in and of the above languages both in oral and written.
- College degree related to the language and culture.
- Minimum 2 years experience as a professional interpreter for any of the above language.
- Basic Computer skills including MS Word, Internet, and Keyboarding.

Please send your resume via email or fax along with the following requirement to juliei@cnmiwic.org. Fax No. (670) 664-4069 or drop it off at the Administrative Building at Upper Navy Hill, Bldg. N25 Mayoria Ave.
- Resume
- Copy of CNMI Driver's License and Passport
- Copy of Business License

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to call Julie R. Inos at 664-4067, Ruth T. Sablan at 664-4084. Last day of proposal is January 8, 2016 by close of business day.

Thank you!

P.O. Box 502509 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 664-4067
Fax: (670) 664-4069

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper.
Call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT Solution: In the cold light of day

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

COLD DAWN

WHATZIT? © 2015 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick
www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Caldwell-Pope's jumper lifts Pistons past Heat

MIAMI (AP)—The game's outcome wasn't decided until the absolute final moment. In reality, the Detroit Pistons did what was required to win about two hours earlier.

A second-quarter barrage of 3-pointers helped the Pistons erase an early 18-point deficit, and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope's jumper with 55.5 seconds left went down as the game-winner as Detroit topped the Miami Heat 93-92 on Tuesday night.

Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh missed jumpers in the final three seconds for Miami, though replays suggested Bosh's might not have counted anyway.

"They missed great shots," Pistons coach Stan Van Gundy said. "I give our guys credit for fighting back to get in that game. I thought we played better defense in the second half. We did get the rebound on Wade's shot, that was great. But let's not go to the point of saying that we stopped them on the last two possessions. They missed great opportunities. Two Hall of Fame players missed shots."

Reggie Jackson led the Pistons with 18 points, while Stanley Johnson and Caldwell-Pope each had 14. The Pistons were 15 for 29 from 3-point range, outscoring Miami 45-12 in that department.

Detroit has connected on 31 3-pointers in two games against Miami this season, both Pistons victories.

"That one's a tough one," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "They had a poor first quarter, we had a horrible second quarter and then it became an absolute grind-out, competitive basketball game."

Bosh scored 20 points for Miami. Wade finished with 19, Hassan Whiteside had 16 points and 15 rebounds, and Beno Udrih—starting in place of the injured Goran Dragic - scored 14 for the Heat.

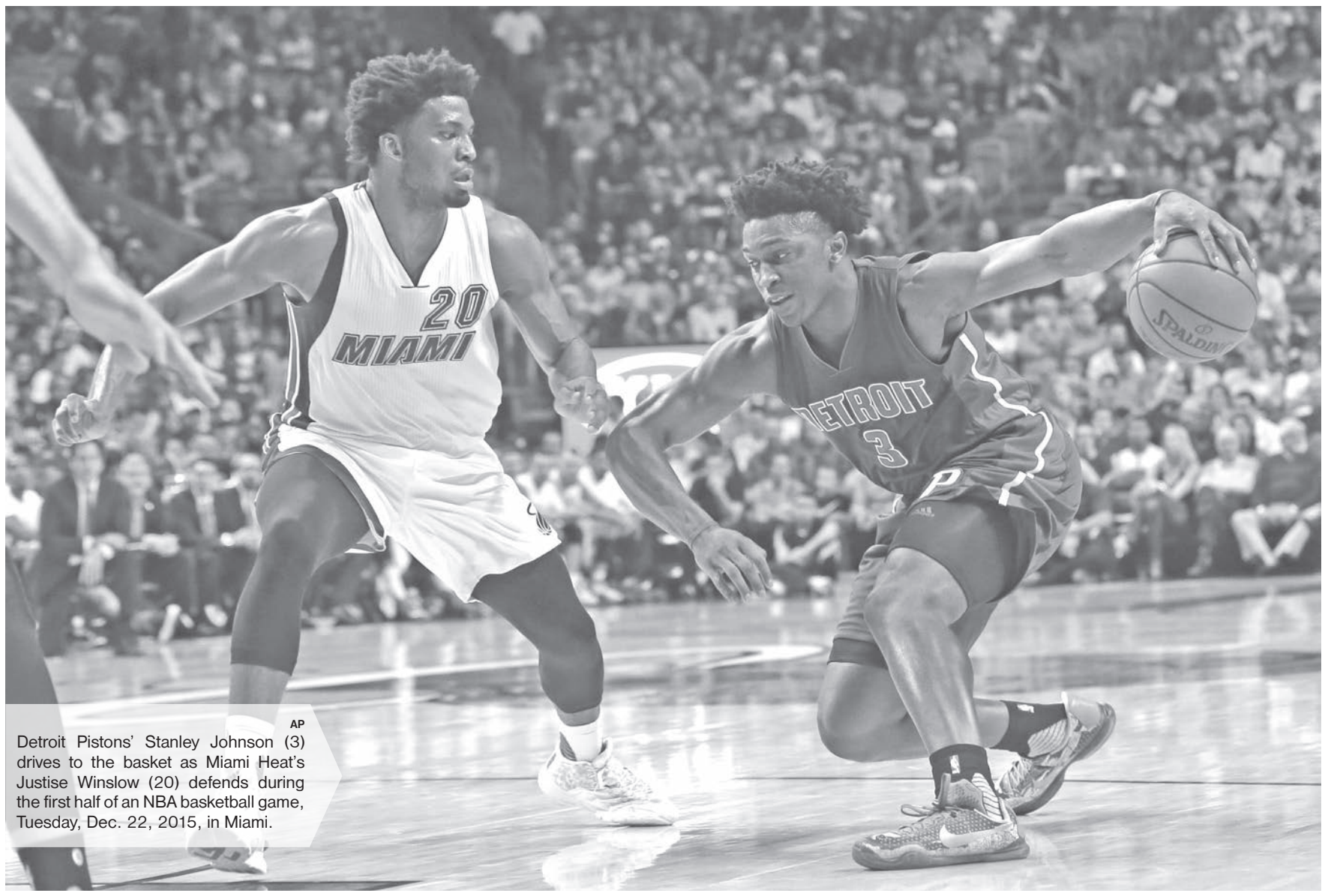
Caldwell-Pope put the Pistons up 91-89 with 2 minutes left on a 3-pointer. The lead changed hands twice more, but the Heat didn't score in the final 1:18.

"I'd love to have that shot back again," Wade said.

Miami led 34-18 after one quarter, pushed the lead to 18 early in the second - and succumbed to a flurry of Detroit 3-pointers.

Johnson made four 3s in the half, Steve Blake and Anthony Tolliver made two more apiece before the break, and the Pistons took a 54-52 edge into the locker room. Detroit scored 36 points in the second quarter, matching its output in the first and third quarters combined.

And when Miami went up by seven early in the fourth, Blake and Tolliver combined for three more 3s to keep Detroit close and start what would become the game-winning rally.



AP

Detroit Pistons' Stanley Johnson (3) drives to the basket as Miami Heat's Justise Winslow (20) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2015, in Miami.

"Basketball's a pretty simple game," Tolliver said. "If you do the right things, play the right way, things go your way."

Lakers 111, Nuggets 107

In Denver, Kobe Bryant's turnaround was unstoppable, just like it was years ago. He played suffocating defense on the hot shooter, same as he did years ago.

For a night, Bryant was vintage Bryant again. No second thoughts about retirement, though.

"Zero. Not even an inkling," he said.

Bryant tied a season high with 31 points after missing a game with a sore right shoulder, and the Los Angeles Lakers rallied from a 21-point, first-half deficit to beat the short-handed Denver Nuggets 111-107 on Tuesday.

Bryant also had five assists and played stellar defense to help bottle up the hot-shooting Will Barton, who had 23 points in the first half only to finish with 25.

"I can still play a little bit," said Bryant, who was on the court for 32 minutes in the first game of a back-to-back. "It was a great test for me tonight to see if I could still play both ends of the floor."

The 37-year-old Bryant announced last month he would retire after the season. He received plenty of cheers during his penultimate game in the Mile High City, including chants of "Kobe! Kobe!" in the waning seconds.

Up 103-100 with 1:23 remaining, Bryant hit two free throws and then a jumper to seal the Lakers' fifth win of the season.

"He's still a guy that sees the floor better than everybody," coach Byron Scott said. "He sees it in slow motion."

But that defensive performance. Now that impressed Scott.

"Barton was tearing us up in the first half," Scott said. "I asked Kobe if he wanted to guard him. He's like, 'Yeah, I got him.' Two points after that. He just did a fabulous job."

The Nuggets were without Danilo Gallinari (sprained left ankle) and Emmanuel Mudiay (sprained right ankle). Gary Harris went down with a strained right knee early in the game, but returned to score 21 points, tying a career high.

"Bryant had a game tonight and we didn't have anybody that could guard him," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "We had to adjust. Give them credit. That was a good win for them."

Denver's reserves actually outscored the starters by a 58-49 margin.

Los Angeles turned things around in the third quarter thanks to a 27-10 run, with Bryant leading the way. He didn't play in Oklahoma City on Saturday because of a sore shoulder, two days after dunking for the first time this season against Houston.

And while Scott said his star's shoulder was still "a little sore," it hardly showed. He had a behind-the-back pass in the third quarter that set up a 3-pointer by Lou Williams.

Just Bryant being Bryant.

"I've been watching him since I was a little kid. Nothing new," teammate Julius Randle said with a casual shrug.

Raptors 103, Mavericks 99

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 28 points and Bismack Biyombo had a career-high 20 rebounds, leading the Toronto Raptors to a 103-99 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night.

Kyle Lowry added 17 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for Toronto, which swept the two-game season series against Dallas. Terrence Ross scored 16 points, and Luis Scola finished with 15 points and nine rebounds.

The Raptors appeared to be on their way to a comfortable victory with five minutes to go in the fourth. But the Mavericks battled back.

Jeremy Evans scored with 11.6 seconds remaining to trim Toronto's lead to 101-99, but missed a foul shot that would have got Dallas within one. Ross then closed it out with a couple of free throws.

Grizzlies 104, Sixers 90

In Philadelphia, Marc Gasol scored 19 points, Mike Conley had 18 points and six assists, and the Memphis Grizzlies beat the Philadelphia 76ers 104-90 on Tuesday night.

The Grizzlies had five players score in double figures. Courtney Lee had 15 points, reserve Zach Randolph added 14 points and eight rebounds, and Matt Barnes finished with 12 points and 10 boards.

Jahlil Okafor scored 18 points and Hollis Thompson contributed 16 for Philadelphia, which dropped to 1-29 while losing its 11th straight game.

SIDEBAR

NBA: Durant game-winner shouldn't have counted

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Monday night's matchup between the Oklahoma City Thunder and Los Angeles Clippers yielded a series of terrific plays by each team's superstars in the final minute. According to the NBA's "Last Two Minute Report" of late-game officiating calls (via PBT), though, two of the biggest plays in the Thunder's 100-99 win should have benefited the Clips, which likely would have turned the result their way, as well.

The first play ended positively for the Clippers, although it could have involved another point. With OKC up 98-97 and holding the ball on an inbounds pass after Russell Westbrook's steal of J.J. Redick, Dion Waiters threw his pass too hard and out of the reach of Westbrook. Chris Paul grabbed the loose ball and converted this tough bucket to give the lead back to the hosts:

The report says that Paul deserved a trip to the free-throw line:

L-SLASH shows that as he falls to the ground, Westbrook undercuts Paul and makes contact with his left leg that affects his movement to the basket on the made layup attempt.

That's a tough break for the Clippers, although they still held a one-point lead with 10 seconds left even without the and-one. That was erased when Kevin Durant made what turned out to be the game-winner over Luc Richard Mbah a Moute:

Except that one shouldn't have counted either, because the league says that Serge Ibaka set an illegal pick to create some space for Durant:

Ibaka extends his arms as he sets the screen on Mbah a Moute without giving him room to avoid the contact.

The good news for the Thunder is that Durant's game-saving block of Paul at the buzzer was deemed clean. Plus, you know, they get to keep the win, the biggest prize of all.

The Clippers will have to make due with the knowledge that the referees should have given them two key calls. On the other hand, these plays do not always receive whistles, especially in crunch time. We're going to go out on a limb and assume that CP3 isn't telling his teammates that they really won the game. We know he's not the type to take solace in moral victories.

Leake agrees to $80M, 5-year deal with Cardinals

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Minutes after his contract with the St. Louis Cardinals was announced, Mike Leake was looking ahead to rivalry games against the Chicago Cubs.

"Honestly," he said Tuesday, "I wouldn't mind taking them down."

Leake and the Cardinals agreed to an $80 million, five-year contract, a move the Cardinals hopes boosts their chances to win a fourth straight NL Central title.

"When we make decisions, it is about performance," general manager John Mozeliak said. "We heard nothing but positives."

Leake described the Cardinals as a "dynasty." Before last season, St. Louis had been to the NL Championship Series or deeper four consecutive years.

"When the offseason is unfolding, different options pop up," Mozeliak said. "When this did, we decided it made a lot of sense. I do think it makes the Cardinals stronger."

AP

Mike Leake and the Cardinals agreed to an $80 million, five-year contract on Tuesday.

Leake gets $12 million next year, $15 million in 2017, $17 million in 2018, $16 million in 2019 and $15 million in 2020. The deal includes an $18 million mutual option for 2021 with a $5 million buyout. Leake also receives a full no-trade provision.

During his news conference, Leake raised a No. 8 jersey, the number he wore at Arizona State.

"I was looking for some place to call home," Leake said. "They were willing to work with us and we were willing to work with them."

Because Leake was traded during last season, the Cardinals will not have to forfeit a compensatory draft pick. They've traded a number of young pitching prospects the past few seasons, including Shelby Miller, Tyrell Jenkins and Rob Kaminsky.

A 28-year-old right-hander, Leake is 64-52 with a 3.88 ERA in six big league seasons. He was 11-10 with a 3.70 ERA for Cincinnati and San Francisco last season, totaling 30 starts and 190 innings.

Ace Adam Wainwright, who returned late in the season from a torn left Achilles tendon, heads a rotation that includes Carlos Martinez, who was sidelined in September by a shoulder injury but is anticipated to be ready for spring training. Jaime Garcia and Michael Wacha also are expected to start, and lefties Marco Gonzales, Tyler Lyons and Tim Cooney could earn rotation spots.

"I think we can be the best," Leake said. "If they name me the No. 5 guy, that's fine with me."

St. Louis failed in efforts earlier this offseason to retain outfielder Jason Heyward and add pitcher David Price.

Mozeliak said talks with Leake began about a week-and-a-half ago. Leake had put a priority on Arizona, where he lives, but the Diamondbacks signed Zack Greinke and acquired Shelby Miller from Atlanta.

"Once Arizona got out of the picture I was open to whatever team I felt fit my needs the best," Leake said. "Coming here has turned into my new No. 1."

Leake is durable, ranking fifth in innings in the National League during his six seasons. He was second in the NL in pitches thrown per inning, at 14.3, always remembering advice from his father when he was six or seven to attack the hitters.

Beckham's appeal of 1-game suspension to be heard

NEW YORK (AP)—Odell Beckham Jr. is going to have his appeal of his one-game suspension heard by a former NFL receiver.

The NFL said Tuesday that former Washington and Philadelphia wide out James Thrash will be the hearing officer for the appeal by the New York Giants receiver. The hearing will be held at an undisclosed time and place.

Thrash and Derrick Brooks are the hearing officers jointly appointed by the NFL and the players' association.

The league suspended Beckham on Monday for his conduct against Carolina, when he drew three personal foul penalties. The league cited "multiple violations of safety-related playing rules."

The Giants (6-8) face a key game on Sunday night at Minnesota. If Beckham's appeal is turned down, the Giants will be without their best offensive option.

Beckham and Panthers cornerback Josh Norman tangled from the beginning of the Panthers' 38-35 victory. There was plenty of pushing, shoving, swinging, wrestling, late hits and trash talking between them. The most flagrant action came in the third quarter when Beckham delivered a diving helmet-to-helmet hit on Norman while blocking.

Beckham, the 2014 Offensive Rookie of the Year, has 91 catches for 1,396 yards and 13 touchdowns, tied for the league lead. He has a base salary of $893,000 and would lose $55,813 for being suspended for Sunday night's game.

The suspension was imposed by NFL Vice President of Football Operations Merton Hanks, who ruled that Beckham's actions placed his opponents at unnecessary risk of injury and should have been avoided.

The conduct of other players in the Panthers-Giants game is being reviewed by the NFL for potential fines.

Beckham would not be permitted this week to be at the team's practice facility if the suspension was upheld. He would be barred from team meetings, attending or watching practices; attending Sunday's game; or having contact with any club personnel except to arrange off-site medical treatment or rehabilitation. He would be reinstated Monday.

SIDEBAR Steelers focused on Ravens, not playoff scenarios

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Mike Tomlin is well aware of the math.

And he's pretty sure his players are too.

Just don't expect the Pittsburgh Steelers coach to start talking about what needs to happen for his team to clinch a playoff spot this weekend. Last Tomlin checked, that wasn't part of his job description.

''By all means have it, discuss (the scenarios),'' Tomlin said Tuesday. ''But nothing changes our mentality in terms of where we are and what we need to be focused on.''

A win in Baltimore against the Ravens and a loss by the New York Jets to New England would assure Pittsburgh (9-5) a spot in the postseason for the second straight year and the sixth time in Tomlin's nine seasons on the sideline.

Tomlin's success tends to follow a familiar pattern: the Steelers have issues coming out of the gate only to get it together when the temperatures dip and the pressure mounts.

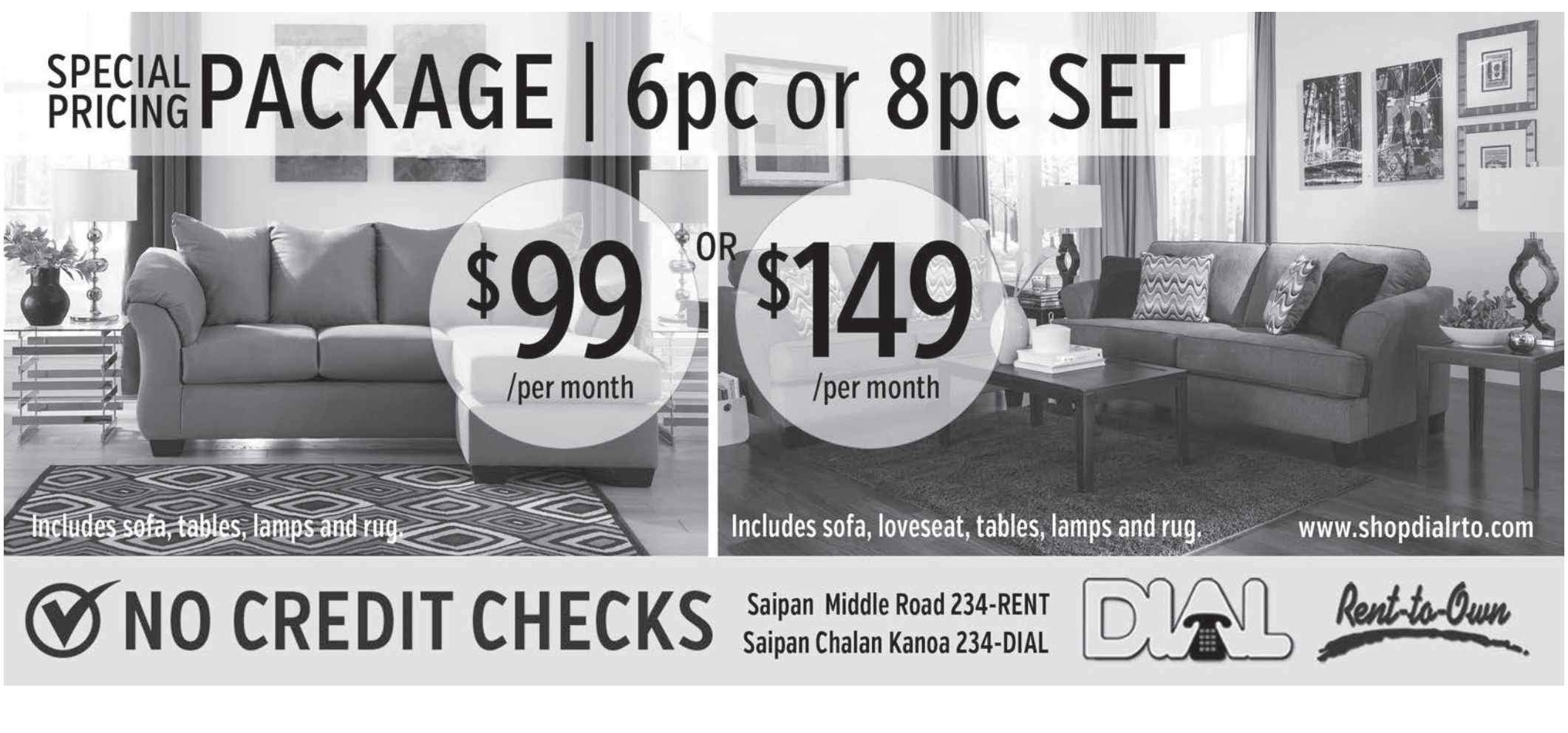
Pittsburgh is 28-12 in regular-season games played Dec. 1 or later under Tomlin. The Steelers have won 10 straight games in December, tied with Carolina for the league's longest active streak.

The arrow, as Tomlin likes to say, is pointing up. Even if he doesn't want to get into details. Pressed on how his team has improved since a 23-20 overtime home loss to Baltimore on Oct. 1 and he gives the equivalent of a verbal shoulder shrug.

''It's just the natural maturation process of a group, individually and collectively over the course of the season,'' Tomlin said. ''That was Week 4. We're now in the thick of this thing.''

And appear to be a very real threat in a muddled AFC. Denver, Cincinnati, Houston and Indianapolis have quarterback issues. Kansas City is the hottest team in the league not named Carolina, though its current eight-game run includes a victory over the Roethlisberger-less Steelers on Oct. 25.

The Patriots are the Patriots, but have taken to signing 32-year-old running backs to have someone to line up next to Tom Brady.



Brazil attorney general alleges bribes tied to Rio Olympics

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazil's attorney general is investigating allegations that bribes were paid to a powerful lawmaker to help secure contracts for the building of venues and other works for next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

In documents obtained by The Associated Press, Attorney General Rodrigo Janot accuses Eduardo Cunha, speaker of the lower house in Brazil's two-chamber legislature, of receiving 1.9 million Brazilian reals ($475,000) from the construction company OAS to craft legislation favorable for the company.

Cunha has called the allegations "ridiculous" in comments to local media, while OAS refused to comment.

The investigation is the first linking corruption to the billions being spent on Olympic building projects.

OAS is involved with building the BMX, mountain bike and canoeing venues at Deodoro in northern Rio, the second-largest cluster of Olympic venues.

The constructor is also involved in work on high-speed bus lanes, the 8 billion reals ($2 billion) renovation of Rio's port, and projects to clean the polluted waters in Barra da Tijuca, the area where the main Olympic Park is being built.

The International Olympic Committee referred an email seeking comment to local organizers, who did not immediately respond.

Under the Brazilian system, the prosecutor is largely an investigator and it's up to the court—in this case Brazil's Supreme Court—to accept a case.

In the 190-page report, Janot says that Cunha "treated the lower house as a center for trading bribes for bills."

The report alleges that Cunha guided legislation approved in 2012 that gave tax exemptions to all Olympic-related construction works, and exempted import taxes on some foreign goods needed for the Olympics.

The Brazilian government's executive branch estimated the tax breaks amounted to 3.8 billion reals ($1 billion).

Janot also said Cunha used "his position as a lawmaker to craft business-friendly legislation that was against the public interest." He described Cunha and an OAS executive of being "part of a criminal organization."

"At least since 2012, Eduardo Cunha has been illegally acting on the behalf of corporations, 'selling' legislation to benefit them," the report said. "That shows he can no longer remain in office."

Cunha was elevated to speaker earlier this year.

Cunha is facing calls for his resignation in connection with a series of scandals. At the same time he is leading an impeachment effort against President Dilma Rousseff.

The investigation is more bad news for Brazil.

The country is mired in a deep recession, Rousseff is fighting off impeachment charges, and there is an on-going investigation of massive bribes and corruption surrounding state-run oil company Petrobras.

The Olympics are also taking a beating.

Organizers are trying to cut about 2 billion reals ($500 million) from the 7.4 billion ($1.9 billion) operating budget, promising to trim non-essential "behind-the-scenes costs" for the games that open on Aug. 5.

Rio's severe water pollution is also causing concerns. An AP investigation has shown that about 1,600 athletes competing in sailing, rowing, canoeing, triathlon and distance swimming will compete in waters that present health risks linked to astronomically high virus levels.

Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes is hoping to use the games as a platform for a 2018 presidential run.

In the documents obtained by AP, Cunha is quoted as telling a top OAS official that Paes was "happy" with the legislation he crafted because "it reaches every construction project in Rio."

The attorney general does not make any accusations against Paes.

Sidney Levy, the chief executive officer of Rio's Olympic organizing committee, has repeatedly vowed that the games will be free of corruption and will serve an example of how business in Brazil can be done above board.

IOC President Thomas Bach said earlier this month that the IOC would start auditing the money it gives to international federations, national Olympic bodies and games' organizing committees. Rio is receiving about $1.5 billion from the IOC to help organize the games.

Ridin'Darrty still on top of Fanihi division

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty is still lording it over in the Thursday B Flame Tree division of the Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association's Winter-Spring 2016 season.

The Ridin'Darrty, the reigning Summer-Fall Flame Tree division champion, scored an 11-4 triumph over sister team Naked Fish Na'Gupu in one of the four matches played in various bars last week.

With the score tied at 4-4, the Ridin'Darrty flexed its muscles by sweeping the last seven events to finally silence Na'Gupu (19-26).

Boom "Bang" Cruz, Cisco "Chico" Cruz, Paul "The Flash" Quizon, Leo Galarse, Jordan Mendiola, and Nate "Top Dawg" Bermudes went undefeated to hike the Ridin'Darrty's record to 31-14 or three wins ahead of the Jokes Latte Sparts' 28-17 card.

The Sparts continues to shadow the Ridin'Darrty after a 10-5 crushing of the VFW Serial Killaz (16-29), while the Jonny's Kyodai (25-20) and the Oleai No Fear (24-21) completed 9-6 wins over the Naked Fish One Shot (15-30) and the Jokes EM Tech's (22-23), respectively.

Below are the results in other division matches last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Predators celebrate their 12-5 win over fellow 6JMS-backed squad Sakude! in the A division of the Bud Light-SEDA League Winter-Spring season.

A DIVISION

- Predators 12, Sakude! 5
- Darrty! 10, Snipers! 7
- Mafia 9, 101 Proofers 8
- No Fear 9, Hunters 8

TUESDAY B

- Chamberos 13, Shooters 2
- Shockers 13, Warriors 2
- Spartans 10, Hot Points 5,
- Northern Lights 8, Dabarkadz 7

MASTERS

- Nakayoshi 12, Darteros 5
- Daddies 11, Pythons 6

C DIVISION

- Managaha Boyz 12, Just Dart It 3
- Puntan Langit 10, Blue Koi 5
- Mixed Nuts 9, Jump It 6
- Spartans 8, C-Busters 7

FANIHI B

- Dart Vader 12, Parekeyu 3
- Mafia 11, Dragons 4
- Fearless 9, Preba Darts 6
- After Dart 8, Tachagi Talo 7

ARMATECH

From Page 32

The comfortable lead allowed Armatech to slow down a bit on the offensive end in the fourth frame, but still KB Market could not close the gap, paying the price for falling deep in the hole in the first quarter.

Moreno top-scored for Armatech with his 21 points, while Berline chipped in 19. Elias Rangamar had 13 for the eliminated KB Market, while Camacho added 12.

Armatech 75 – Moreno 21, Berline 19, Abuy 15, Gabaldon 5, Pablo 4, Park 4, Malasarte 3, Duenas 3.

KB Market 59 – Rangamar 13, Camacho 12, Lansang 10, Garcia 6, Ayuyu 6, Renguul 5, Anasan 4, Morales 3.

Scoring by quarters: 24-9, 43-29, 62-43, 75-59.

THEA

From Page 32

uatu pairing finished at No. 10.

Despite playing for NMMI for only two seasons, Minor said she learned a lot from coach Dan O'Connell and her teammates and opponents.

"The two seasons gave me a lot of great experiences. I have learned a lot of things, especially from the challenges I have to face during my matches," the 20-year-old player said.

"To my coach I am thankful that he came into my life. If I haven't met him 10 years ago, I wouldn't have this opportunity to play college tennis and move forward to another school," Minor said.

O'Connell and Minor met through the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships. The CNMI player made it to the North Pacific Team several times and her strong showings in the yearly POJC have impressed O'Connell, the former Pacific Oceania Junior ITF development officer. When he resigned from his ITF post and got an offer to coach NMMI, O'Connell recruited Minor along with the other players in the POJC.

"To my teammates, you guys are the best teammates. We are more than teammates. We are like sisters who are there for each other," Minor said.

The daughter of proud parents Joy and Boyet Minor is likely to move to her new school in April next year to sign up with Henderson, which competes in the Gulf South Conference of the NCAA Division II and is coached by Brenda Joiner.

"I will try my best to help my new team. I know it will be very tough to reach the nationals, but it's worth the shot," said Minor, who hopes to see more CNMI players playing in collegiate level.

"If you (CNMI junior players) are aiming for college tennis, keep going—don't let anything stop you because in the end it is all worth it. For those who just started playing, it's never too late. Just work hard every day both in academics and in tennis," she added.

WHITE

From Page 32

"And to [also] estimate how many people will be coming to the Games. So please give me your best guesses at this point," added White, who is hoping to hear from the said sports federations no later than Dec. 31.

White is hoping Team CNMI will have a better showing in the Mini Games after failing to win any medal in this year's 15th Pacific Games in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Meanwhile, the organizing committee of the Vanuatu Mini Games has also moved the dates of the quadrennial sporting event to Dec. 2 to 14 from the summer of 2017 since repairs and other improvements on the venues damaged by Cyclone Pam are facing delays.

Cyclone Pam packed 300kph (186mph) winds and slammed into Vanuatu's capital Port Vila and other nearby islands in March this year, flattening houses and damaging 90 percent of the buildings in the affected areas.

The Pacific Games Council awarded the hosting rights to Vanuatu during its annual general assembly in Noumea, New Caledonia on Sept. 4, 2011. This will be the first time since 1993 that Vanuatu is hosting the Games.

Rugby, archery boxing, cricket, judo, karate, and netball are the other sports to be played in the 2017 competition.

Saipan Soccer School/Tan Holdings Funfest

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A William S. Reyes Elementary School student kicks the ball during one of the activities in the Saipan Soccer School/Tan Holdings Funfest held early this month at the WSR pitch.

Students line up and wait for their turn to try one of the drills in the funfest.

A William S. Reyes Elementary School student throws rings to the cones.

A William S. Reyes Elementary School student goes for a shot.

A William S. Reyes Elementary School student dribbles the ball.

Volunteer Gabrielle Race gives instructions to a William S. Reyes Elementary School student.

A kid enjoys one of the activities in the funfest.

A father tries one of the activities in the funfest.

Tan Holdings' Ed Arriola talks to the crowd at the conclusion of the funfest.

Caldwell-Pope's jumper lifts Pistons past Heat

PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Leake agrees to $80M, 5-year deal with Cardinals

PAGE 29

Thea moves up to NCAA Division II

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former CNMI top junior player Thea Minor is moving up to a much competitive playing field after a notable collegiate debut with the New Mexico Military Institute.

Minor will be suiting up for the Henderson State University—an NCAA Division II school in Arkansas—next year.

"I have received another full scholarship from NCAA Division II's Henderson State University. I am very thankful that God has given me this opportunity not only to play tennis and run cross country, but also to continue my studies," said Minor, who made the leap after completing her rookie season with the NMMI.

Minor and the NMMI Broncos play in Division I of the National Junior College Athletics Association. During her short stint with NMMI and the NJCAA, the Commonwealth netter made it to the nationals both in the spring and fall seasons. In the spring season, Minor and doubles partner Lorraine Banimataku of Vanuatu were ranked No. 8 in doubles, while the former finished at No. 43 in doubles. In the fall season that just ended last month, Minor jumped several notches ahead in the singles ranking, as she claimed the No. 26 spot, while in the doubles, the CNMI-Van-

See THEA on Page 30

NMMI.EDU.COM
Thea Minor makes a baseline return during a practice session with New Mexico Military School last spring season.

Armatech eliminates KB Market

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Armatech shut the semis door on KB Market after recording an easy 75-59 win in their playoff game in the masters division of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League last Tuesday night at the San Antonio court.

The third-seeded Armatech took early control of the win-or-go home match en route to the 16-point victory that gave the team the second semis berth in the division. The seventh-ranked VM Production bagged the first semis slot following a win via forfeiture against the second-seeded Blue Haus and incidentally the former will face Armatech in one of the two semis matches in the masters competition. The winners in the MJD Enterprise-CES Electronics and GMJ/IKKI-Erika's Catering tiff will duel in the other semis game.

Armatech's semis stint was made possible by its twin-digit advantage against KB Market right at the end of the first period, 24-9. Shooter James Abuy fired up early for Armatech, as he knocked in 11 of his 15 points in the opening canto, while four of his teammates also hit the board in the first 10 minutes of play.

KB Market, on the other hand, drilled only four field goals in the first frame with only Peter Camacho nailing more than 2 points in his squad's lethargic start.

KB Market picked up its scoring in the second quarter with Camacho drawing help from his teammates this time. However, KB Market could not stop Armatech's key players from scoring, too. The towering Bruce Berline asserted his might in the paint and contributed 9 points, while Martin Moreno, Bong Malasarte, and Haejun Park also helped the team's cause with Abuy going cold to keep Armatech's double-digit advantage at the break, 43-29.

Armatech continued to counter every basket from KB Market in the third quarter and this time it was Moreno who led the team's offense to stretch their lead to 19, 63-43, entering the final canto.

See ARMATECH on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Armatech's Dindo Pablo pulls up for a jumper against two Maplas defenders during their earlier game in the masters division of the San Antonio caging at the San Antonio court. Armatech is in the semifinals of the inaugural league.

White wants early tally of NMI delegation to Vanuatu

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Mike White is requesting six federations to inform him if they will be sending teams to the 2017 Pacific Mini Games that will be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

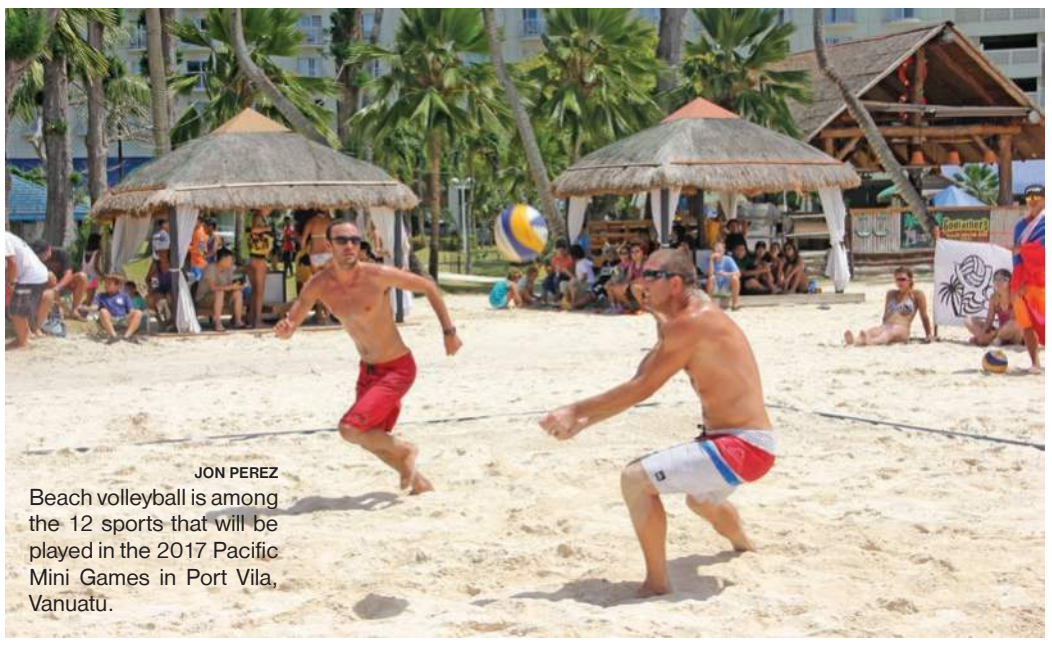
White, in an email sent out to all NMSA member federations, said that athletics, beach volleyball, football (soccer), golf, tennis, and weightlifting are the sports to be contested in the 10th edition of the scaled down version of the Pacific Games.

"I am asking each of these federations to tell me whether they intend to send a team, and if so, I need to know the number of [male and female] athletes, coaches, and officials," he said.

White added that submitting names is not binding and won't cause any fine for the CNMI if ever they decided to pull out or don't show up.

"This is not the binding submission, which results in a fine if we don't show up. This is only to help the organizing committee determine whether there are enough countries to stage a particular sport."

See WHITE on Page 30



JON PEREZ
Beach volleyball is among the 12 sports that will be played in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu.